

Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC, New York (105-12445)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
(OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY-X

DATE: 3/29/55

ReBulet to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III, dated 3/15/55, copies of which were furnished NY, New Orleans and Memphis.

ROY WILKINS, Administrator, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 20 W. 40th St., NY, NY on 3/24/55 furnished to SA JAMES P. MARTIN, one typed copy each of the following:

1. Letter dated 1/19/55 from ROY WILKINS to Mr. MAXWELL M. RABB.
2. Affidavit of [REDACTED]
3. Affidavit of [REDACTED]
4. Affidavit of [REDACTED]
5. Affidavit of [REDACTED]
6. Affidavit of [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/22/87 BY 6257ms
914421 6/2/87

One set of the typed copies, listed above, as well as two sets of Photostats of the above listed items, are being forwarded as enclosures with this letter to the Bureau.

In accordance with Bureau instructions in reBulet, two sets each of Photostats of the above listed items, are being forwarded with copies of this letter to the New Orleans office and to the Memphis office.

No copy of the enclosed material is being retained by NY.

It is noted that after initial contact had been made with the National Office of the NAACP at NY, to secure the above, CLARENCE MITCHELL, Director, Washington Bureau, NAACP, telephonically contacted this office and spoke to SA JAMES P. MARTIN on 3/22/55. MITCHELL stated he was in NY that day and had

Encs. (3)

- 2- Memphis (Encs. 2)
2- New Orleans (Encs. 2)

JPM:EMC

RECORDED-11
INDEXED-11

20 MAR 3

NY 105-12445

been advised by ROY WILKINS of the request for the above items. He said he merely wished to advise that he had, during February, 1955, contacted the head of the Farm Home Administration, US Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D.C., whose name he cannot recall, regarding the refusal, by the Farm Home Administration, of loans to the five signers of the enclosed copies of affidavits.

MITCHELL said he pointed out to the head of the Farm Home Administration that these five persons seemed to be good credit risks and that he believed pressure had been brought to bear upon the Farm Home Administration officials in Mississippi to refuse the loans to these five individuals because the latter were leaders in the NAACP in Mississippi.

MITCHELL recalls that subsequently the Farm Home Administration changed its stand in regard to one of these five individuals and had extended a loan to this one, whose name MITCHELL could not recall.

The above is set out for information. RUC.

105-342 37-12.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President
Arthur B. Spingarn
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Channing H. Tobias
Treasurer
Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers
Assistant Treasurer
Theodore Spaulding



LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Walter White *Executive Secretary*
Roy Wilkins *Administrator*
Thurgood Marshall *Special Counsel*
Henry Lee Moon *Director, Public Relations*
Gloster B. Current *Director of Branches*
Clarence Mitchell
Director, Washington Bureau

C O P Y

January 19, 1955

Mr. Maxwell M. Rabb
The White House
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/24/01 BY 60271 NLS EAT/UM

918429

Dear Mr. Rabb:

We wish to acknowledge your letter of January 18 addressed to Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Chairman of our Board of Directors, on his telegram to the President about conditions now being imposed on Negro farmers, homeowners, business and professional men in Mississippi.

We appreciate the referral to the Attorney General for his information and attention. There may or may not be evidence of violation of civil rights warranting action by the Department of Justice, but it occurred to us in urging the President to "alert the appropriate federal agencies" that aspects of this Mississippi situation might come properly within the Department of Agriculture and certain lending agencies therein.

Negro farmers in Mississippi are having difficulty refinancing mortgages. A number of others, according to affidavits in our possession, are being turned down on their applications for drought-hardship loans.

I am attaching two copies of each of the affidavits in our possession. You will note that the names of two men, a [redacted] and a [redacted] occur in several affidavits.

These affidavits seem to indicate that agencies of the Federal Government itself are arbitrarily denying financial relief which they are empowered to give and which in other years they have given.

We hope that very prompt action can be taken on this phase and that not only the men mentioned in the affidavits out of the one office at Lexington, Mississippi will receive the attention of the Department of Agriculture, but that all officers in the state will be alerted.

Very sincerely yours,

RW:erb
Enclosures

Roy Wilkins
Administrator

A F F I D A V I T

I, Tehula, Holmes County, Mississippi on this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Fifty Four (1954), hereby affirm that economic pressure is being exerted on me because of my activities in bringing approximately 25 members into the NAACP branch of Belzoni, Mississippi which is fifteen miles from my home.

Presently, my place, house (7 rooms); barn, one tractor and 73 acres of rich Mississippi delta soil which produces as much as 1 1/2 bales of cotton to the acre, is under threat of financial disaster because of this year's drought and a refusal on the part of lending agencies to extend financial loans for operations.

The reasoning for refusal being that anyone belonging to the NAACP is not worthy of financial assistance and are termed "troublemakers" for the community.

I am presently indebted to a lender for \$3,500 who is making immediate demand for total payment or face possible foreclosure proceedings.

I have been offered \$10,000 for my property of which I owe a balance of approximately \$3,000.

I hereby reaffirm the above statements to be true and was volunteered by me this 28th day of December 1954.

Signed

Witness

Chester Holmes Notary Public

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/01 BY 60321/um

9/15/14

A F F I D A V I T

I, [REDACTED] Tchula,
Mississippi this 29th day of December 1954, hereby
affirm that [REDACTED] who is Farm Home Manager
(F. H. A.) refused to accept my application for loan,
however, last year, 1953, about the 15th of December
I received an operational loan through the same
agency (F. H. A.). But this year, I have been unsuc-
cessful to get any consideration for a loan to operate
my farm.

SIGNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITNESS

C. V. THURMOND NOTARY PUBLIC

A F F I D A V I T

I, [REDACTED] TCHULA, HOLMES
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, HEREBY AFFIRM THAT THOUGH MY COUNTY,
HOLMES WAS DECLARED A DISASTER-DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREA, AND
THAT DISASTER LOANS ARE BEING MADE TO INDIVIDUALS I WAS
UNABLE TO SECURE ONE BECAUSE A [REDACTED] OF LEXINGTON,
MISSISSIPPI (FARM HOME MANAGER) THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD
NOT HAVE IT.

ANY ASSISTANCE THAT I CAN GET IN SECURING OPERATIONAL
EXPENSE WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

SIGNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITNESS

C. V. THURMOND NOTARY PUBLIC

AFFIDAVIT

I [redacted] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi on 28th day of December in the year of our Lord Nineteen Hundred and Fifty Four (1954), hereby affirm that because of my mere membership in the NAACP AND my presence in the community, there exists a feeling of dislike for me by some white men who are in federal authority (F.H.A.) and who have attempted to make my presence in the community impossible.

Example: No loans will be extended to me for current operations which begin in mid-January.

A [redacted] supervisor for the F. H. A. of Lexington, Mississippi through which my property was purchased will not make it possible for me to secure a loan for operations through the F.H.A. However, a white friend of mine was able to receive up to \$10,000 for the purchase of equipment and for operations, through the F.H.A. and [redacted]

My holdings consist of 76 acres of delta soil with two homes, a barn and 66 acres under cultivation with an approximate balance due on said holdings of \$2,600.

I, [redacted] hereby reaffirm that the above statement is true and was volunteered by me this 28th day of December 1954.

Signed [redacted]

[redacted] Witness

Chester Holmes Notary Public

A F F I D A V I T

I, [REDACTED] TCHULA,
MISSISSIPPI, THIS 29TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1954, HEREBY
AFFIRM THAT I HAVE BEEN REFUSED A DISASTER LOAN IN
HOLMES COUNTY OF MISSISSIPPI. THE COUNTY HAS FUNDS
AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION AND MY FARM HOME MANAGE-
MENT SUPERVISOR [REDACTED] TOLD ME HE WOULD NOT LET
ME HAVE A DISASTER LOAN, ALSO [REDACTED] SAID
HE COULD NOT LEND ME MONEY TO OPERATE ON FOR THE YEAR
1955 BECAUSE OF THE DROUGHT SETTING ME BACK.

IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT [REDACTED] REFUSES
SOME LOANS TO N A A C P MEMBERS BECAUSE OF LOCAL
ACTIVITIES.

I, HEREBY REAFFIRM THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT IS
TRUE AND WAS VOLUNTEERED BY ME THIS 29TH DAY OF
DECEMBER 1954.

SIGNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITNESS

C. V. Taurmond NOTARY PUBLIC

Mont

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

April 6, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS
COUNCILS (OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI FILE 105-14837-12

RECORDED

13

EX-108

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 3, 1955, your reference W6:KWH:vms, 144-2-130, captioned "White Citizens Council" and my reply thereto dated March 15, 1955, captioned as above.

There is being furnished you herewith one photostat each of the affidavits of [redacted]

[redacted] which affidavits were referred to in your referenced memorandum. There is also being furnished you herewith one photostat of a letter dated January 19, 1955, from Roy Wilkins, Administrator, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, addressed to Mr. Maxwell M. Rabb, The White House, Washington, D. C., with which the above-mentioned affidavits were furnished the White House.

Inquiries are being made relative to the contents of these affidavits. The results of these inquiries will be furnished you promptly.

Enclosures (6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/81 BY 4-247NLS/EL

918421

Lm

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

(with Enclosures (6))

2cc - SAC, Memphis (105-121)

2cc - SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

SAC, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS SEE PAGE 2 FOR NOTE.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CFW:bas
(12)

MAILED 8

APR 6 1955

COMM-FBI

58 APR 8 1955

7-12-58
7-2 DEPT OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED

ATTENTION SAC, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS;

Reference is made to Builet to Assistant Attorney General Olney III dated March 15, 1955, copies of which were furnished the Memphis and New Orleans Offices, and with which you were furnished Photostats of the referenced Department memorandum and an article appearing in the "Los Angeles Tribune" of January 28, 1955.

Reference is also made to New York letter to the Bureau dated March 29, 1955, with which you were furnished Photostats of the affidavits referred to above.

The New Orleans Office is instructed to initiate inquiries concerning the contents of these affidavits. It should be determined during your inquiries whether [redacted] agents of the FWA (possibly Foreign News Administration), are connected in any way with the captioned organization, and if so, the results of your inquiries should be furnished promptly in report form suitable for dissemination to the Department. In the event you determine [redacted] are not associated with the captioned organization the results of your investigation should be furnished the Bureau under an appropriate case caption.

During the course of your inquiries any data received indicating violations of civil rights statutes should be furnished the Bureau expeditiously under the appropriate case caption.

The Memphis Office is instructed to remain alert for any information similar to the above indicating possible violations of civil rights statutes. This information should be handled in accordance with the above instructions.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE:

WO:MMH:

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: White Citizens Council

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/29/21 BY 60320WSE/LLM
915421

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Our attention has been called to an article appearing in the March 22 issue of LOOK Magazine, entitled "A Wave of Terror Threatens the South." The article was written by Hodding Carter, editor of the Greenville, Mississippi, DELTA DEMOCRAT-TIMES.

The article refers to several incidents which would appear to be pertinent to the investigation now being conducted under the provisions of Executive Order 10450. It is also possible that violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 are involved. The incidents are as follows:

One incident involves a Negro undertaker, T.V. Johnson of Belzoni, Mississippi, who reportedly was threatened by members of the Council with the loss of credit and his home unless he had his name stricken from a list of voters and also disassociated himself from Negro Boy Scout activities.

Another incident involved a Dr. Clinton Battles, a Negro physician at Indianola, Mississippi. Apparently, Dr. Battles has urged other Negroes to register and has publicly approved of the Supreme Court's decision regarding segregation. As a result, according to the article, his patients have been threatened with the loss of their jobs unless they find another physician.

Still another incident involved a Mississippi Negro school teacher who joined a Roman Catholic Church and who lost her job when she began attending services in a white Catholic church.

We might also add that the March 24 issue of JET Magazine, on page six, contains an article concerning one Augustus Courts of Belzoni, Mississippi. According to the article, Courts, a former official of the NAACP, operated a grocery store in a downtown building. He was reportedly warned by representatives of the Council to withdraw his name from the registration lists and to "quit voting" or "they would make it hard for him to stay in business." Courts refused, and was thereafter directed to vacate the grocery premises by the landlord, one Joseph Goldberg.

Insofar as the above or other incidents interfere with the right to vote or freedom of religion or speech, they may involve violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 and deprivation of Constitutional rights. In connection with your investigation, it is suggested that Mr. Hodding Carter be interviewed for any additional specific information he may possess.

COPIES DESTROYED - 81
RECORDED - 81
MAY 10 1972

29

MAR 25 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Belmont

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

March 31, 1955

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 60247 NLS EP/HK
ON 3/24/97
X 9/8/21

105-37-13
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS
COUNCILS (OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI FILE 105-36237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 9/8/21

FILED
60247 NLS EP/HK
9/8/21

RECORDED - 81

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 24, 1955, your reference WOI:MMW:vmw, 104-2-130, captioned "White Citizens Council." In the referenced memorandum you advised an article which appeared in the March 22, 1955, issue of "Look" magazine concerning the Citizens Councils in Mississippi refers to several incidents which appear to be pertinent to the investigation of the captioned organization now being conducted under the provisions of Executive Order 10450 and that it is possible that violations of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 2381, are involved.

Your attention is called to the report of Special Agent George A. Everett dated February 16, 1955, in this matter, a copy of which was furnished the Department previously. On page 56 of this report the results of an interview with [redacted] who is mentioned in your memorandum, are set out. [redacted] is otherwise mentioned in that report on pages 49, 54 and 57.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to locate and interview T. V. Johnson, whose name is set out in the referenced memorandum. Johnson's name is mentioned in the report of Special Agent Everett on pages 48, 54 and 55. Further attempts will be made to locate and interview Johnson.

No mention is made of Augustus Courts, named in your memorandum, in the report of Special Agent Everett or in the report of Special Agent Laurence J. Frank, Jr., a copy of which has been furnished the Department. Inquiries will be initiated with respect to the allegations of action taken by the Citizens Councils in connection with Courts.

With regard to your suggestion in the referenced memorandum the Memphis office of this Bureau is being instructed to interview Mr. Hodding Carter, Editor of the "Memphis Post-Dispatch."

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

2cc - SAC, Memphis (105-121) (w/Attachment)
2cc - SAC, New Orleans (105-492) (w/Attachment)

AC, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS SEE PAGE 2 FOR NOTE.
CFW:bas (12) (SEE PAGE 3 FOR NOTE ON YELLOW)

60 APR 8 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"Democrat-Times," Greenville, Mississippi, for any information he may possess in addition to that appearing in his article in "Look" magazine.

The results of these interviews and inquiries will be furnished you promptly.

Enc - Assistant Attorney General
William P. Tompkins

ATTENTION SAC, MEMPHIS AND NEW ORLEANS:

There is being furnished the Memphis and New Orleans Offices one Photostat each of the referenced memorandum. The Memphis Office is instructed to immediately locate and interview T. V. Johnson and to conduct inquiries concerning the incident involving Augustus Courts. Both Johnson and Courts reportedly reside in Belzoni, Mississippi. Courts should be interviewed unless information in the files of your office dictate to the contrary.

The Memphis Office is also instructed to immediately interview Hedding Carter, Editor of the "Democrat-Times," Greenville, for any information in his possession concerning the captioned organization. All facts upon which his article in "Look" magazine was based should be obtained.

The Memphis and New Orleans Offices are instructed to remain alert in conducting investigations in this matter to possible violations of civil rights statutes. Information regarding these possible violations should be furnished the Bureau promptly under appropriate case captions.

A report suitable for dissemination containing the results of your interviews and inquiries in connection with the referenced memorandum should be furnished the Bureau promptly.

Note → DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 3/15/77 WFO/NSA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NOTE ON YELLOW:

The correct name of this organization is Association of Citizens Councils (of Mississippi). Investigation of this organization was suggested by the Department in connection with the provisions of Executive Order 10450. The captioned Council has as its aim the maintenance of segregation in public schools and prevention of Negroes from voting. These aims are to be carried out through legal means according to the organization. Enforcement of these aims is to be through economic boycott of Negroes attempting to vote and who are pressing for integration in public schools.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : *MA* SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS (OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: April 15, 1955

Reference is made to Bulet dated 4-6-55 to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III. concerning affidavits of [REDACTED]

Please be advised that investigation is being conducted in accordance with Bureau instructions and it has been determined that [REDACTED] is the County Farm Management [REDACTED] Farmers Home Administration at Lexington, Mississippi, and [REDACTED] (believed mistakenly referred to as [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] Farmers Home Administration at Greenville, Mississippi, where he was transferred on January 16, 1955. [REDACTED] is a Negro and has been with FHA since April 16, 1941.

Copies of the above-mentioned affidavits have been obtained from FHA, Jackson, Mississippi, but since Bureau already has copies, no additional copies are being furnished.

A report will be submitted by the New Orleans Office in the near future.

LJF:dbc

1 cc: Memphis (105-121) (RM)

REGISTERED MAIL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/07 BY 60267NLS/EI

X 918421

km

RECORDED - 75
INDEXED - 75
EX-110

APR 18 1955

APR 20 1955

[Redacted]
University, Mississippi



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60261MLG
98421 EPI/AM

April 22, 1955

Mr J Edgar Hoover
Director
The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice Building
Washington, D C

*Union of Citizens Councils
(Miss.)*

Dear Mr Hoover;

I am writing to you to obtain information on the Citizen's Councils which have been set up here in my home state of Mississippi. I would like to know what the opinion of the FBI is about this organization. I fully realize to release such information may be impossible but I shall be grateful for any data which you may be able to supply me with.

The primary reason I am requesting this information is because several members of my family are very active in its work. I feel that they are wrong in their actions however I am not for immediate intergration. I am fearful of any organization that proposes to willfully violate the law of the land and to create unrest and ill-will between the two races. I fear that these Councils will degenerate into another Ku Klux Klan with a reign of terror which will divide our country.

It is in this state of mind that I request any information you might be able to supply me.

[Redacted]

APR 25 1955

RECORDED - 99

105-34237-15
29

16 APR 29 1955

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "MAY 27-55"

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "3 1955" and "typed copy 4-27-55"

Handwritten notes and signatures, including "4" and "CRIME"

RECORDED - 98

INDEXED - 98

April 27, 1955

3/29/01 60247WLSep/LW
91421

[Redacted]
University, Mississippi

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated April 22, 1955, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, information in FBI files is confidential and available for official use only. I would like to point out also that this Bureau is strictly a fact-gathering agency and does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual.

I know that you will understand the reason for these rules and will not infer from my inability to be of assistance either that we do or that we do not have the information you desire.

You may desire to contact the Attorney General of Mississippi for assistance.

Sincerely yours,

COMM - FBI
APR 27 1955
MAILED 19

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Memphis, with copy of incoming.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

IMIEUWVF 2200111111


Records contain no records identifiable with [Redacted] Association of Citizens' Councils (of Mississippi) is presently under investigation by the Memphis and New Orleans office by suggestion of the Department. It has as its aims

HEH:nl

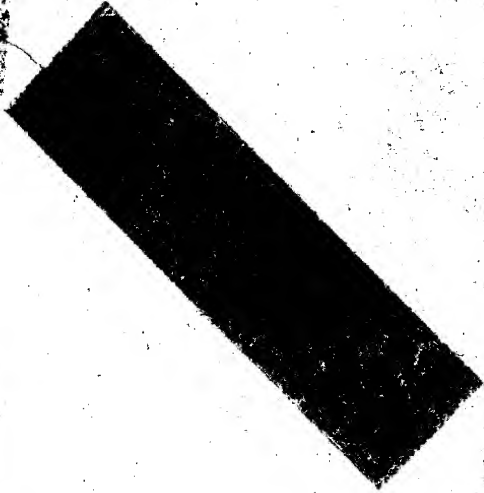
(4)

(See next page.)

63 MAY 3 1955

 April 27, 1955

the maintenance of segregation in public schools and prevention of Negroes from voting. These aims are to be carried out through legal means according to the organization. Accomplishment of these aims is to be through economic boycott of Negroes attempting to vote and who are pressing for integration in public schools.
(105-34237-13)



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW ORLEANS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 5/9/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/10; 4/5,7,15/55	REPORT MADE BY LJF:eo LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.
TITLE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS (OF MISSISSIPPI), aka: The Citizens Councils of Mississippi			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

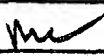
Article appearing in Los Angeles Tribune 1/28/55 reveals affidavits reportedly submitted by Mississippi NAACP leaders accusing two Farmers Home Administration agents at Lexington, Mississippi of discrimination in collaboration with economic pressure movement of Citizens Councils of Mississippi. Investigation by FHA official fails to substantiate allegations. One of the two FHA Agents accused denied membership in the Association of Citizens Councils, and the other is a "Negro." Allegedly the signers of the affidavits told one of the accused agents that they had no complaint with the FHA and if any criticism of FHA in affidavit, they did not know what they were signing. Group of citizens in Jackson, Mississippi reportedly organized Hinds County Branch of instant organization under name of Jackson States Rights Association.

DETAILS: Hereinafter in this report the Farmers Home Administration will be referred to as FHA as a matter of expediency.

*No discrimination to G-r,
ONI most inasmuch as no
info re or set out other than
Jackson States Rights which has
been furnished by separate report*

*Let FAG Oliver w/ice report
cc AAG Tompkins w/ice report*

*5-18-55
OFK*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: 	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 105-134237- MAY 12 1955		RECORDED - 43 INDEXED - 43
COPIES OF THIS REPORT PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE COPIES DESTROYED 479 APR 27 1972				

PROPERTY OF FBI--This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

50 MAY 24 1955

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 3/15/77 LED/rjg~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- ⑥ - Bureau (105-34237) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Birmingham (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Charlotte (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Knoxville (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Little Rock (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Louisville (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Memphis (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Miami (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Mobile (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Norfolk (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 1 - Savannah (INFO.) (REGISTERED MAIL)
- 3 - New Orleans (105-492)

By letter dated March 15, 1955, the Bureau furnished a photostatic copy of an article which appeared in the Los Angeles Tribune on January 28, 1955, and requested that copies of affidavits referred to in the article be obtained.

The article is as follows:

"EISENHOWER TOLD FHA COLLABORATING WITH
DIXIECRATS TO FREEZE NEGROES ECONOMICALLY

"New York - Affidavits from Mississippi NAACP leaders, accusing representatives of federal financing agencies of discrimination in collaboration with the economic pressure movement of the White Citizens Councils of Mississippi, have been submitted to the White House with an urgent request for 'prompt action.'

"WALTER E. STRIDER and S. O'NEAL, agents of the FHA in Lexington, Miss., are named as denying Negroes assistance.

" 'These affidavits,' ROY WILKINS, NAACP administrator, informed the White House, 'seem to indicate that agencies of the federal government itself are arbitrarily denying relief which they are empowered to give and which in other years they have given.'

NO #105-492

"Aids NAACP Membership Drive, Denied Loan

" 'Because of my activities in bringing in about 25 members in the NAACP branch,' one farmer asserts in his affidavit, 'economic pressure is being exerted on me.' Owner of 73 acres of 'rich Mississippi delta soil' with a 7-room house, a barn and a tractor, this Negro farmer says that although his tract produces as much as a bale-and-a-half of cotton per acre, he is unable to get loans for operations.

"Because of drought and the demand for immediate payment of a \$3,500 mortgage, he is in danger of losing his place. 'Any one belonging to the NAACP,' he affirms, is not deemed 'worthy of financial assistance and is termed a troublemaker in the community.'

"O'Neal Strider Named

"Although 'disaster loans are being made to individuals' in the drought area, another victim affirms that he has been unable to secure such a loan 'because a Mr. S. O'Neal, of Lexington, Miss., (farm home manager) thought that I should not have it.'

"A woman farm owner in the same drought-stricken area also complains that O'Neal and Strider have denied her a disaster loan to operate her farm. 'It is generally believed,' she adds, 'that Mr. Strider refuses some loans to NAACP members because of local activities'.

"Last year, a local NAACP leader swears, he secured without difficulty an operational loan from the FHA. 'But this year, I have been unsuccessful in getting any consideration for a loan to operate my farm,' he asserts, naming O'Neal as the one who rejected his application.

"The owner of a 76-acre farm complained that:

" 'No loans will be extended to me for current operations which begin in mid-January. A Mr. Walter E. Strider, supervisor for the FHA of Lexington, Miss., through which my property was purchased, will not make it possible for me to secure a loan for operations through the FHA. However, a white friend of mine was able to receive up to \$10,000 for equipment and operations through the FHA and Mr. Strider.'

NO #105-492

"Branch President Turned Down

"The president of an NAACP branch, owner of a \$37,000 business in a Mississippi city affirms that he was warned by a member of the City Council and two police officers to post a sign over his place 'For Colored Only' in an effort to drive away white trade.

" 'I was told,' he declares 'that their reason was to protect me from the 'poor whites' and to keep the mean white people from bombing my place. I refused their request. As a result, pressure was put on whites who stopped trading with me. My business is very young and I didn't have money for operation. I went to my local bank but was turned down. No reasons were given for not granting the application.' "

Mr. BUFORD YERGER, Director, Federal Housing Administration, Jackson, Mississippi, advised on April 5, 1955 that Mr. THOMAS B. FATHEREE was Director of the Farmers' Home Administration.

Mr. THOMAS B. FATHEREE, Director, Farmers' Home Administration, 450 Milner Building, Jackson, Mississippi, advised on April 7, 1955 that the matter of alleged discrimination on the part of two of his field agents at Lexington, Mississippi had been brought to his attention immediately upon a release of publicity allegedly that the CITIZENS COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI were using government agencies to carry out their program of economic pressure.

Mr. FATHEREE stated that a complete investigation was made of the cases referred to at Lexington, Mississippi, and that he had received photostatic copies of the affidavits filed by the applicants for Farmers' Home Administration loan assistance in Lexington, Mississippi.

The affidavit submitted by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tchula, Mississippi, is as follows:

NO #105-492

"I, [redacted] Tchula, Mississippi, this 29th Day of December 1954, hereby affirm that I have been refused a disaster loan in Holmes County of Mississippi. The county ~~has~~ funds available for distribution and my ~~Farm~~ Home Management [redacted] told me he would not let me have a disaster loan, also [redacted] said he could not lend me money to operate on for the year 1955 because of the drought setting me back.

"It is generally believed that [redacted] refuses some loans to NAACP members because of local activities.

"I, hereby reaffirm that the above statement is true and was volunteered by me this 29th day of December 1954.

"Signed [redacted]

According to Mr. FATHEREE, the following information reflects all pertinent details of this individual's dealing with the Farmers' Home Administration.

[redacted] widow, received a farm ownership loan in the amount of \$6230 and purchased a farm at Mileston, Holmes County, Mississippi, January 1, 1944 with an annual installment of \$269.51, first payment due 12/31/44. She also received farm operating loans based on farm and home plans 1944 through 1947 and paid her operating loans in full November 19, 1947. For the crop years 1948 through 1952 she received her farm operating loans from some other lending agency or individual and at no time during the period 1948 through 1952 did she request or make application for a loan through the Farmers Home Administration.

"For the crop year 1953 she made application for an operating loan and received an initial loan in the amount of \$4500 based upon farm and home plan that was jointly ~~agreed~~ would be sufficient to operate the farm efficiently. However, field visits to the farm and home by County Supervisor revealed that it would be necessary for an additional amount of \$315 be advanced to carry through on the planned farm operation. This \$315 subsequent loan was granted June 15, 1953. At the end of the crop year her crops were sold and the proceeds amounted to \$1145.80. She applied this as credit to the indebtedness principal and interest leaving a delinquency of \$1341.71 or a total indebtedness of \$3816.71. For the crop year of 1954 she received an operating loan based on

NO #105-492

"farm and home plan that was agreed would be the amount necessary to carry through an efficient farm and home program for the 1954 crop year.

"During the crop year field visits were made as follows by [redacted] 5/4/54; 6/10/54; 8/18/54; 9/15/54; 10/19/54; and 10/17/54. Under date of 6/15/54 a farm visit was also made by [redacted] County Supervisor, to inspect security chattels including an inspection on buildings for minor repairs. All of these visits were made working jointly with borrower and at no time did borrower suggest or request additional loan for carrying through on the farm plan operation. At the end of the crop year 1954 proceeds from the sale of borrower's crops in the amount of \$1209.01 were applied to principal and interest leaving her delinquent in the amount of \$1731.70 or a total operating loan indebtedness of \$4206.70.

[redacted] was notified to come to the Farmers Home Administration office in Lexington for the year-end analysis and to prepare 1955 plans which would include an operating loan if justified by the farm and home plan. Upon this visit it was discovered by lien search that [redacted] held a second mortgage on chattels and first mortgage on 1955 crops.

[redacted] was advised that it would be necessary to have the 1955 crop mortgage cancelled and to secure a statement from [redacted] to the effect that he would not foreclose during the calendar year of 1955 on second mortgage held on chattels. This information as requested has not been received by the FHA office as of this date.

"No question has been asked this borrower with reference to her affiliation or membership or nonmembership with any organization. A farm operating loan has not been refused and at such time as she can arrange her financial business to meet the regulations and policies of the Farmers Home Administration the County Committee will certainly give her as they have in the past all consideration with reference to financial help.

[redacted] has received financial assistance through the Farmers Home Administration to assist her in overcoming farm problems as the records will reveal. For the calendar year of 1944 through the calendar year of 1952 borrower was delinquent on real estate payments. During the 1953 calendar

NO #105-492

"year payments were paid current from the sale of timber removed from field and pasture land. As of 9/30/54 borrower owes a balance of principal on land to the Farmers Home Administration of \$5243.52 and \$79.15 interest."

The affidavit submitted by [redacted]
[redacted] Tchula, Mississippi is as follows:

"I, [redacted] Tchula, Mississippi this 29th day of December 1954, hereby affirm that [redacted] who is Farm Home [redacted] (F. H. A.) refused to accept my application for loan. However, last year, 1953, about the 15th of December I received an operational loan through the same agency (F.H.A.). But this year, I have been unsuccessful to get any consideration for a loan to operate my farm.

"Signed [redacted]"

/s/ [redacted] WITNESS

/s/ C. V. THURMOND NOTARY PUBLIC "

A transcript of [redacted] negotiations with the Farmers' Home Administration is as follows:

[redacted] made application and received an initial Farm Ownership loan in the amount of \$5765 and purchased a farm at Miletton, Holmes County, Mississippi, January 1, 1944, with an annual installment of \$249.39, first due date 12/31/44. Each year from 1944 through 1954 [redacted] has received a farm operating loan based upon the actual needs for the efficient operation of his farm. He has always made satisfactory payments and has always followed his farm and home plans and been very cooperative with the field and office workers.

"On January 23, 1952 [redacted] received an operating loan in the amount of \$4000 representing family subsistence, seed, feed, fertilizer and the purchase price of tractor and equipment. His payments on this loan were as follows:

NO #105-492

"\$1960 due 1952; \$700 due 1953; \$700 due 1954 and \$700 due 1955. He met his obligations paying current in 1952 on both his real estate and operating loan. For the crop year of 1953 he received an operating loan of \$1850 based upon farm and home needs for that current year. In 1953 he paid the \$1850 and also the \$700 note on capital goods. For the crop year of 1954 he received an operating loan of \$1260 based on the farm and home needs for efficient operation of his farm and after field visit by the County Supervisor on April 16, 1954 it was determined that he needed an additional \$250 to carry through on his plans and this loan was granted, making a total of \$1510 loans for 1954. He repaid this \$1510 and also \$448.52 as credit on the \$700 note leaving him delinquent on his operating loans as of this date \$251.48 with a total principal balance owed on operating loans of \$951.48.

[redacted] was notified to come to the FHA office on December 14, 1954 for an analysis of his past year's operations and to complete plans for 1955 which would include a 1955 operating loan if necessary. He failed to comply with this request and was rescheduled for January 12, 1955. Records reveal that he did not comply with this request. He has been rescheduled for February 1, 1955.

[redacted] has not been refused a loan and has gotten every consideration that any other farm family has and will continue to receive such consideration.

"Records will reveal that under date of March 17, 1954, July 13, 1954 and November 18, 1954 field visits were made to the farm and home of [redacted] by [redacted]

[redacted] assisting borrower in carrying through with his plans as to their actual operations of his farm.

"The borrower's real estate loan has been current at all times other than a short-time during the year 1947, when he was delinquent \$56.52. Borrower owes a balance on his real estate to the United States of America of \$4223.67 principal and \$66.28 interest.

"The records outlined above reveal that [redacted] has never been refused an operating loan for the 1955 crop year. If and when he complies with our request that he appear

NO #105-492

"for the year-end analysis of his 1954 operations as is required for all borrowers and it is determined from this analysis that a 1955 operating loan is needed, full consideration will be given to his application."

Mr. FATHEREE stated that subsequent to the date of the above information that [] had been granted an operating loan by the Farmers' Home Administration for the crop year 1955.

An affidavit submitted by []
[] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi, is as follows:

"I, [] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi on 28th day of December in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty four (1954), hereby affirm that because of my mere membership in the NAACP and my presence in the community, there exist a feeling of dislike for me by some white men who are in federal authority (F.H.A.) and who have attempted to make my presence in the community impossible.

"Example: No loans will be extended to me for current operations which begin in Mid-January.

"A [] for the F.H.A. of Lexington, Mississippi through which my property was purchased will not make it possible for me to secure a loan for operations through the F. H. A. However, a white friend of mine was able to receive up to \$10,000 for the purchase of equipment and for operations, through the F.H.A. and []

"My holdings consist of 76 acres of Delta Soil with two homes a barns and 66 acres under cultivation with an approximate balance due on said holdings of \$2,600.

"I [] hereby reaffirm that the above statement is true and was volunteered by me this 28th day of December 1954.

"Signed []

"/s/ [] WITNESS
/s/ C. PRESTON HOLMES NOTARY PUBLIC"

NO #105-492

Details concerning [] dealings with Farmers Home Administration is as follows:

[] received a Farm Ownership loan in the amount of \$6955 and purchased a farm at Mileston, Holmes County, Mississippi, January 1, 1944, with an annual installment of \$300.87, first payment due 12/31/44. Borrower [] received operating loans for the crop years 1944 through 1946 and paid the Government in full on operating loans. Since that date he has secured loans as farm plans will reveal from other lending agencies or individuals.

"As of this date [] has not submitted application for an operating loan but under date of January 19, 1955 he was in my office with several other borrowers and discussed his financial conditions as he requested to do. I made lien search at the chancery clerk's office, said lien search attached in his folder dated January 19, 1955, 10:00 a.m., and the records reveal several mortgages on land, crops and chattels, the latest mortgage being recorded 1/13/51, Book 105, Page 477, in the amount of \$5424.09, due 10/1/54 to J. W. McCLINTOCK, covering second mortgage on land, first mortgage on chattels, and first mortgage on 1954 and 1955 crops. He was advised in the presence of the delegation with him and also office personnel of my office that it would be necessary to have the 1955 crop mortgage cancelled and a statement from the mortgage holder on land and chattels that he would not foreclose during the crop year of 1955. As of this date Borrower [] has not furnished information as requested. [] has not been refused an operating loan but has been notified that he must meet conditions governing the approval of a loan by the laws of Congress and the policies of the Farmers Home Administration. At such time as these requirements are met the County Committee will certainly review his application and give all the assistance available with reference to a loan or loans for 1955.

[] has not discussed with the Farmers Home Administration personnel in the Lexington office or the County Committee anything concerning his affiliation, membership or nonmembership with any organization and that affiliation, if any, does not and will not have any bearing on his application.

[] was delinquent on his real estate notes in 1947, 1950 and 1952. He is current with the Farmers Home Administration

NO #105-492

"as of this date owing a balance to this agency on his real estate of \$5708.39 principal. As of this date he does not owe the Farmers Home Administration an operating loan."

An affidavit submitted by [redacted]
[redacted] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi, is
as follows:

"I, [redacted] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi on this 28th day of December in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty four (1954), hereby affirm that economic pressure is being exerted on me because of my activities in bringing approximately 25 members into the NAACP branch of Belzoni, Mississippi which is fifteen miles from my home.

"Presently, my place, house (7 rooms): Barn: One tractor and 73 acres of rich Mississippi Delta soil which produces as much as 1½ bales of cotton to the acre, is under threat of financial disaster because of this year's drought and a refusal on the part of lending agencies to extend financial loans for operations.

"The reasoning for refusal being that anyone belonging to the NAACP is not worthy of financial assistance and are termed "trouble-makers" for the community.

"I am presently indebted to a lender for \$3,500 who is making immediate demand for total payment or face possible foreclosure proceedings.

"I have been offered \$10,000 for my property of which I owe a balance of approximately \$3,000.

"I hereby reaffirme the above statements to be true and was colunteered by me this 28th day of December 1954.

"Signed [redacted]

[redacted] Witness"

NO #105-492

An explanation of his negotiations with the Farmers' Home Administration is as follows:

[redacted] received a Farm Ownership loan in the amount of \$5115 for the purchase of a farm at Mileston, Holmes County, Mississippi, January 1, 1944 with an annual installment principal and interest of \$221.27, first installment due 12/31/44. Records reveal that he also received operating loans for 1944, 1945, 1946, and 1947 from the Farmers Home Administration and its predecessor agency. Records further reveal that he paid his operating loans in full in 1947 and since that date he has secured his operating loan(s) from private lending agencies, not having requested or made application through this department at any time for a loan.

"In the month of December 1954, [redacted] came to the FHA office at Lexington, Mississippi and personally discussed with [redacted] the possibility of securing an operating loan for 1955. He stated to [redacted] that he was indebted to [redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi, and the said [redacted] held second mortgage on his land and first mortgage on his chattels and 1955 crop. With this information [redacted] and [redacted] came to my office and we received and discussed the statements that he had just made to Assistant Supervisor [redacted]. I further made lien search and noted that a mortgage was filed January 1, 1952, Book 100, Page 359, in the amount of \$6621.82, to J. W. McCLINTOCK, date due 10/1/52, which included second mortgage on land, first mortgage on chattels and first mortgage on 1954 and 1955 crops. [redacted] stated that he did not owe this much and that he had credits applied against this indebtedness that the records did not reveal. I advised [redacted] to contact [redacted] and secure an itemized statement of his indebtedness. I further advised him that it would be necessary before a loan could be made for this 1955 crop operations that the 1955 crop mortgage be cancelled and that he should secure a statement from [redacted] that he would not foreclose on chattels or land during the calendar year of 1955. As of this date he has failed to secure or give a report on this requested information.

"Under date of 10/7/54, [redacted] came to the FHA office and made a payment on his real estate note of \$331.41, which represented \$110.14 delinquency and the annual payment of \$221.27 for the year 1954. This was remitted by receipt No. F217697. Records further reveal that these funds were from

NO #105-492

"the sale of 1954 crops and demand was made by [redacted] for these funds as he held first mortgage on the 1954 crops and this money was refunded to [redacted] leaving [redacted] delinquent on his real estate notes as of this date \$331.41. The records also reveal that Borrower [redacted] has been delinquent on his real estate loan every year except one from 1947 through 1954. As of 9/30/54, borrower owes a principal balance on real estate of \$4367.97 and \$154.76 interest to the FHA.

"Records reveal that field visits were made to the farm and home of [redacted] by [redacted] on April 26, 1954 and June 3, 1954 for the purpose of assisting him in anyway pertaining to his farm and home plan.

"Lien search requested 1/19/55 reveals that mortgage filed 1/15/54, Book 105, Page 504, in the amount of \$9629.50 due date 10/1/54, to J. W. McCLINTOCK, covered second mortgage on land, first mortgage on chattels, and first mortgage on 1955 crop.

"The record of [redacted] loans by the Farmers Home Administration bears out the fact that he has received full consideration on all requests for loans from this Administration. He has never been turned down on his application for a loan when adequate information was furnished by him in accordance with the loan making policies of this Administration. In fact, he has received assistance from the FHA to help him overcome what appears to be a chronic delinquency situation on his real estate. At no time has his affiliation with any group been discussed with him nor has his membership nor non-membership, his race or creed, had any bearing on consideration of his applications for FHA loans. I assure you that applicant [redacted] and all other applicants will continue to receive proper and fair consideration. Upon furnishing information necessary for a decision regarding his loan which has been requested, the County Committee will be glad to give consideration to any application that Borrower [redacted] desires to make."

NO #105-492

Affidavit submitted by [redacted]

[redacted] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi is as follows:

"I, [redacted] Tchula, Holmes County, Mississippi, hereby affirm that though my county, Holmes, was declared a disaster-drought-stricken area, and that disaster loans are being made to individuals I was unable to secure one because a [redacted] of Lexington, Mississippi (Farm Home [redacted]) thought that I should not have it.

"Any assistance that I can get in securing operational expense would be greatly appreciated.

"Signed [redacted]

[redacted] Witness

C. V. THURMOND, Notary Public"

The explanation furnished by the Farmers' Home Administration concerning [redacted] negotiation with that agency is as follows:

[redacted] received a farm ownership loan in the amount of \$5085 and purchased a farm at Mileston, Holmes County, Mississippi, January 1, 1944, with an annual installment of \$219.98, first payment due 12/31/44. Borrower has continuously received operating loans from the Farmers Home Administration since 1944 and made satisfactory progress other than a few poor crop years over which he had no control. For the crop year of 1953, borrower received a loan of \$2650 based upon farm and home plan. It was agreed by both borrower and the Farmers Home Administration that this amount would be necessary to finance efficiently the operation of the farm. [redacted] lacked \$229.88 paying current at the end of this crop year and also had a \$350 note due in 1954 and \$350 note due in 1955. For the crop year of 1954, [redacted] received an operating loan in the amount of \$1245, which farm plan certified as being the amount necessary to efficiently carry through on 1954 plans. However, field visits reveals during the crop year that it was necessary to advance this borrower a subsequent loan on April 7, 1954 in the amount of \$150 and also a subsequent loan July 6, 1954 in the amount of \$200. Borrower did not request additional loans, neither did

NO #105-492

"field supervisor think additional funds to be necessary. From the sale of 1954 crops the borrower reduced the indebtedness principal and interest in the amount of \$1742.75, leaving him delinquent in the amount of \$1407.75, or a total operating loan indebtedness of \$1757.75.

"Borrower was notified to come to the Farmers Home Administration office for his 1954 year end analysis and 1955 plans, which would include an operating loan for 1955 if needed and if farm and home plan would justify. Information furnished by Borrower [redacted] and as Chancery Court records reveal, J. W. McCLINTOCK held second mortgage on land, second mortgage on chattels, and first mortgage on 1955 crop. Borrower [redacted] was advised that it would be necessary to have the 1955 crop mortgage cancelled and also a statement by [redacted] that he would not foreclose on the second mortgage held on land and chattels for the calendar year of 1955. Borrower [redacted] advised that he would contact [redacted] and furnish information requested. Under date of January 24, 1955, [redacted] called my office from Belzoni and stated he had contacted [redacted] and would be in the office the next day with reference to his mortgage. He did not call at the office on the next day, neither have we secured the requested information as of this date.

[redacted] has not been refused an operating loan for 1955 by the Farmers Home Administration, and at such time as he can furnish the requested information based upon the laws and policies of the Farmers Home Administration to justify an operating loan, the County Committee will certainly give him prompt consideration with reference to 1955 loan or loans. At no time has [redacted] affiliation, membership or non-membership with any organization been mentioned or discussed with him.

"For the calendar year of 1947 through 1952, borrower was delinquent on his real estate payments in 1947, 1950, 1951 and 1952. He is current on his real estate payments as of this date and owes a balance of principal on real estate to the Farmers Home Administration as of 9/30/54 in the amount of \$4046.96 and interest of \$121.85."

Mr. FATHEREE also made available an affidavit furnished by [redacted] of Cleveland, Mississippi relating to economic pressure which is as follows:

NO #105-492

"I, [redacted] of the City of Cleveland, County of Bolivar, State of Mississippi, on this the 29th day of December, 1954, do make the following statement with reference to ECONOMIC PRESSURE:

"On or about August 1, 1954 I completed the construction of a Service Station, Cafe, and, Beauty Shop at a cost of \$37,000., located on Highway 61-South, Cleveland, Mississippi. The business was opened a few days after the completion. After about thirty days of operation I was approached by one of the members of the City Council and two members of the Police Force of the City of Cleveland, Mississippi who requested that I post a sign: 'Colored Only' in the Grill window or post a sign over the door 'All Colored.' I was told that their reason was to protect me from the 'poor whites' and to keep the mean white people from bombing my place. I refused their request, as a result pressure was put on whites who stopped locally around my place for service.

"My business is very young and I didn't have money for operation, I went to my local bank but was turned down. No reasons were expressed for not making a loan.

"I have bought about \$8,000. worth of Stock and equipment that I owe for this 29th day of December, 1954.

"I certify that the above statement is true and correct to the best of my ability, and was volunteered by me this the 29th day of December 1954

"Signed [redacted]

"C. Preston Holmes, Notary Public"

Mr. FATHEREE also stated that as of January 31, 1955 that [redacted] was the only one of the above-mentioned applicants who had been granted a loan.

Mr. FATHEREE related that with respect to the County agents accused of discriminating practices that [redacted] whom he believed was mistakenly referred to as [redacted] was an [redacted] of the Farmers' Home Administration and was presently assigned to the Greenville, Mississippi district. He stated that [redacted] was a "Negro" and had been employed

NO #105-492

by the Farmers' Home Administration since April 16, 1941. He claimed that he was transferred to Greenville from Lexington, Mississippi on January 16, 1955. According to Mr. FATHEREE, [] is a graduate of Alcorn A&M College with a B. S. Degree in Agriculture. He is an Army veteran and, according to Mr. FATHEREE, was considered a very conscientious employee.

Mr. FATHEREE stated that [] was employed at Lexington, Mississippi as County Farm Management Supervisor and he has been employed by the Farmers' Home Administration since July 1, 1935. He stated that [] is a graduate of the Charleston, Mississippi High School, and attended Mississippi Junior College for two years. He claimed that he had questioned [] very specifically concerning his association with any groups in the Lexington area and [] had emphatically denied that he had affiliated with the CITIZENS COUNCILS OF HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI or any similar organization. He reported that [] told him that he had been in touch with some of the Negroes who had signed affidavits alleging discrimination and they told [] that they had no complaint with the Farmers' Home Administration and if there had been any criticism of the FHA in the affidavits, that they did not know what they were signing.

After the publicity in this matter, Mr. FATHEREE stated that a number of citizens, both white and colored in Holmes County, had written to him declaring that there had been no discrimination in connection with FHA loans because of race.

Photostats of the above-described affidavits were submitted to the Bureau by the New York Division by letter dated March 29, 1955.

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on March 10 that the Hinds County Branch of the Association of Citizens Councils (of Mississippi) was being organized. He reported that a Mr. WILLIAM SIMMONS and [] both reputable citizens in Jackson, Mississippi, were pushing the organization, and most all of the prominent men in Jackson would belong or would be interested and this group included [] of the Mississippi Power and Light Company, [] of the

NO #105-492

Deposit Guaranty Bank & Trust Company, [redacted] of the Merchants Co., and [redacted] former governor of Mississippi, and a candidate for election in the next gubernatorial election. It was reported that the organization was very much interested in a speech of HODDING CARTER, Editor at Greenville, Mississippi, who was scheduled to speak at a "negro" college known as Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi.

b6
b7C

It is to be noted that the Jackson group filed a petition for incorporation on March 23, 1955, incorporating under the name of JACKSON STATES RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

Jackson, Miss.
An article appearing in the Jackson, "State Times" on March 10, 1955 disclosed that two Mississippi mayors, one reportedly a member of the Citizens Councils Organization, had termed Editor HODDING CARTER's criticism of the groups as 'sensationalism'. The article revealed that CARTER, who was Editor of the Greenville Delta Democrat Times, said in an article for a national magazine that the Citizens Councils threatened to topple the south into a new wave of terror. CARTER, also according to the article, said the groups organized to combat desegregation through economic pressure threats, to become a modern day Ku Klux Klan, and was distributing anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic propaganda. According to this article, Mayor T. M. PITTS of Indianola, Mississippi, who said he was a member of the CITIZENS COUNCIL, said the south, according to the article, is determined not to have a modern reconstruction period where the NAACP and kindred organizations force their will on people. The article further quoted him as saying that the Council does not hold any ill will toward any individual regardless of race, creed or color, so long as there is no advocacy of integration or mongrelization of the races. This article quoted Mayor MARTIE BISHOP of Cleveland as saying the Council groups are composed of a representative cross-section of the white male population and both Jews and Catholics are members of local Council chapters. *M.*

By letter dated April 1, 1955, the Memphis Division advised that the following members of the Executive Committee of the Association of Citizens' Councils resided in the Southern Judicial District of Mississippi. These were identified as [redacted] Lexington, [redacted] Brookville, FRED ANDERSON, Gloster, and [redacted] Carthage.

NO #105-492

Mr. ROBERT B. ~~PATTERSON~~, Executive Secretary of the Association, who furnished the above information, also stated that the ~~AMERICAN~~ STATES RIGHTS ASSOCIATION recently formed at Jackson, Mississippi was a Citizens Council by a different name. Mr. PATTERSON also reported that there was a very active council at Coxburg in Holmes County and practically all of the male residents of the community attended meetings held every other week.

- P -

NO #105-492

ADMINISTRATIVE

Copies of this report are being submitted to Birmingham, Charlotte, Knoxville, Little Rock, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Mobile, Norfolk and Savannah Divisions for information purposes in view of potential investigation in those districts.

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activities and/or Description of Information	Date Received	Agent to whom furnished	File Where Located
T-1: [redacted]	Background	3/10/55	[redacted]	[redacted] and instant report

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

LEADS

THE NEW ORLEANS OFFICE

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will follow and report activities of the ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS in the Southern District of Mississippi.

REFERENCES

Report of SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., New Orleans, 2/18/55
Report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, Memphis, 2/16/55
Bureau letters to New Orleans dated March 9 and 22, 1955
New Orleans letter to Bureau dated April 15, 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
(OF MISSISSIPPI), aka: The Citizens
Councils of Mississippi
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

DATE: May 9, 1955

Reference is made to report of SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., New Orleans, dated May 9, 1955, in the above-captioned matter wherein certain affidavits were furnished to the Department by the NAACP, alleging discrimination on the part of agents of the Farmers' Home Administration, Lexington, Mississippi with respect to certain loan applications.

From the information obtained, it appears that the person who secured the affidavits either misrepresented the purpose for which they were obtained or completely disregarded the facts as to the information available in the Farmers' Home Administration files.

It is thought that the Bureau may desire to refer this matter to the Department to determine if the Department desires an investigation to develop a possible violation of the Fraud Against the Government statute in the furnishing of false information to the Department.

LJF:eo
(3)

No apparent attempt to deceive U.S. Gov. in furnishing the affidavits either on part of individuals or NAACP. chd

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60267 ML3 EP/LH
915421

RECORDED-57

105-34237-19

FBI
INTERNAL SECURITY

MAY 13 15 34 PM '55

RECEIVED

20 MAY 13 1955

MAY 18 4 34 PM '55
RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

50 MAY 24 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b6
b7C

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

May 18, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
(OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI File 105-34237

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 3, 1955, your reference NO:MWH:umw, 144-2-130, captioned "White Citizens Council" and my replies thereto dated March 15, 1955, and April 6, 1955, captioned as above.

For your information there is being furnished you herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent Laurence J. Frank, Jr., dated May 9, 1955, in the captioned matter.

Enclosure

2cc - Assistant Attorney General (W/Enclosure)
William F. Tompkins

NOTE ON YELLOW:

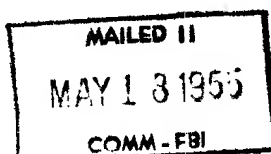
In referenced memorandum, Department requested inquiry be initiated concerning allegations that Farmers Home Administration, a Federal agency, had denied loans to certain Negroes in Mississippi. Enclosed report sets out information concerning these incidents.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 3/16/77 LEO/RSJ

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CFW:hif
(6)

RECORDED - 83



20 MAY 19 1955

MAY 24 1955

CFW

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN

DATE: May 16, 1955

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'
 RIGHTS MOVEMENTS
 INTERNAL SECURITY - X
 BUFILE 105-34387

Background:

Since Supreme Court decision of 5-17-54 re integration of Negroes and whites in public schools autonomous organizations under various names have been formed in Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland for the ostensible purpose of maintaining segregation. These organizations are for the most part made up of prominent citizens such as state legislators, doctors, lawyers, bankers, et cetera, who are opposed to any use of force and violence in maintaining segregation. These organizations disclaim any affiliation with or similarity to the Ku Klux Klan and intend to achieve their purpose through economic pressure brought to bear on members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), individuals seeking Negro votes, Negro voters and integrationists.

Example:

One of the better examples of these organizations is the Association of Citizens Councils (of Mississippi) which claims 30,000 members in 25 counties in Mississippi. The Internal Security Division of the Department by letter 12-10-54 suggested investigation of this organization with a view toward designating it under Executive Order 10450. According to the letter particular emphasis should be placed on any policies or activities which indicate that the organization has "adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force and violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States." Investigation has been conducted and reports submitted to the Department. The Criminal Division of the Department has made several requests for investigation of possible civil rights violations in connection with the Association of Citizens Councils. These possible violations concern alleged attempts to prevent Negroes from voting and refusal by employees of the Federal Home Administration to make loans to Negroes affiliated with the NAACP. The NAACP was quick to secure affidavits in the latter cases and furnish them to the White House.

CFW:bas
 (4)

- 1 - Mr. Boardman
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 -

RECORDED - 64

INDEXED - 64

7-124

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Memo - Belmont-Boardman
dated May 16, 1955

Current Bureau Policy:

Current Bureau policy is that we do not investigate groups that advocate and employ legal means to achieve their objectives; however, where advisable the field is authorized to investigate organizations established for purpose of combatting or advocating affirmative action against racial minorities. Such groups may result in civil rights violations and in cases such as these organizations it is believed desirable that determination of those involved be made and activities of the organization be followed. This investigative background will be most useful in the event civil rights violations should occur in the future in connection with their activities.

By letter dated 3-22-55 twelve southern offices were informed of the rapid spread of these groups and were instructed to be alert for the formation of such organizations in their territory. These offices were instructed that upon receipt of such information to advise the Bureau immediately by letter setting forth pertinent data concerning the organization and officers thereof. No investigation was to be conducted without prior Bureau authority.

Observations:

It is reported that the attitude of the people in the southern states is that the Supreme Court decision is objectionable not only from the standpoint of its social obligations but is actually unconstitutional and an infringement of states rights. Therefore, it appears that strong opposition will be registered by the southern states at such time as integration is made mandatory. Inasmuch as the people connected with these organizations appear to be leaders and respected citizens in their community investigations conducted could be attended by adverse criticism of the Bureau.

The Supreme Court has not yet handed down any date on which integration is to take place. At that time it is probable that these organizations will become more active and that extra legal steps will be taken to prevent integration. Therefore, it is believed that we should have information concerning these groups and the individuals connected therewith prior to any incidents which may take place. In view of the above the field has been following the activities of these organizations to determine whether others are being denied their rights under U. S. Constitution and reports have been furnished Department for consideration under Executive Order 10450.

Memo - Belmont-Boardman
dated May 16, 1955

RECOMMENDATION:

If you approve we will continue having the field follow the activities of these organizations and will continue to furnish reports thereon to the Department for consideration under Executive Order 10450.

OK ✓

2/2

2/2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW ORLEANS

REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 5/23/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/4; 3/25, 26, 28; 4/4, 7, 11, 25, 26;	REPORT MADE BY SA GEORGE A. EVERETT mfs
TITLE CHANGED: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Additional members of CITIZENS' COUNCILS named and organizational activities set out. Constitution and list of State Executive Committee set forth. Alleged economic pressure victim, Belzoni, Mississippi, stated troubles of Holmes County Negro farmers complaining against FHA discrimination caused by own mismanagement. HODDING CARTER, Editor, Greenville, Mississippi, claimed has no facts concerning CITIZENS' COUNCILS activities other than those set out in "Look" magazine article; furnished information regarding economic pressure alleged by GUS COURTS and [redacted] Belzoni. T. V. JOHNSON, Belzoni, declined to make statement. GUS COURTS said forced to move store after refusing to remove his name from registered voters list. [redacted] and [redacted] NAACP members, stated they were approached by White men and urged to disqualify themselves from voting. [redacted] also NAACP members, advised not contacted about removing names from voting list.

DETAILS:

MEMPHIS TO
INDEXING DESK
401Let AAG Olney w/ce. report
cc AAG Thompson w/ce report6-7-55 P -
5/24/55AGENCY 6-2, ONE, ONE
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 6-6-55
HOW FORW. R/S
BY CFW-el

The title of this report is being marked "Changed" to reflect the correct name of the subject organization, as reflected by its constitution. The title was previously carried as ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS (OF MISSISSIPPI)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 105-34237-20	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 6 - Bureau (105-34237) (RM) 3 - New Orleans (105-492) (RM) 2 - Memphis (105-121)		RECORDED - 15 INDEXED - 92 MAY 27 1955 SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION	

PROPERTY OF FBI--This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

55 JUN 29 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 320608
DATE 12/13/91 BY 1565 SDP/CLC/CA

I. ORIGIN, SCOPE AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF
THE ORGANIZATION

The "Delta Democrat Times", a daily newspaper published at Greenville, Mississippi, under date of March 28, 1955, carried an article with a date line at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, stated that the newly formed Southern Gentlemen Organization has affiliated with the Mississippi CITIZENS' COUNCILS in the fight against desegregation, particularly in schools, and that JOHN B. EASTERLY, SR. was Chairman of the Executive Committee. EASTERLY, the article continued, said representatives of Southern Gentlemen conferred at Jackson, Mississippi, "over the weekend," with COUNCILS officials, and that the Mississippi Group had agreed to give financial and advertising assistance to the Louisiana organization. According to the article, EASTERLY also said that men from Lake Charles, New Orleans, Alexandria, Shreveport and Monroe, Louisiana, and several Texas cities, met with the CITIZENS' COUNCILS Group in Jackson. MISS

The Mid-South Edition of "The Commercial Appeal", daily newspaper published at Memphis, Tennessee, on April 20, 1955, carried an article with a date line at Homer, Louisiana, April 19, 1955, disclosing that civic leaders of Homer had organized a Citizens' Council of Homer, becoming the second private Louisiana Group formed to maintain segregation. The article stated this Council is patterned after the Mississippi CITIZENS' COUNCILS but differs from the Southern Gentlemen Organization at Baton Rouge, which keeps its membership secret. Attorney W. M. SHAW, Chief Counsel for the Joint Legislative Committee on Segregation, was disclosed to be a member of the new Council's Board of Directors.

An article with a date line at Sumner, Mississippi, April 9, 1955, appeared in the Memphis "Commercial Appeal" on April 10, 1955, outlining the organization of the first Women's Auxiliary of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS Movement in the South. This organization was in the Brazil Community, nine miles North of Sumner, and took place on April 9, 1955. Mrs. HARVEY PENNINGTON, wife of a State Senator who is President of the Tallahatchie County Chapter of the all-white, all-male CITIZENS' COUNCILS, was named President of the Women's Group. Principal speaker at the organizational meeting was Mrs. WILMA B. MAXEY, Sunflower County Representative in the State Legislature, and MISS

ME 105-121

other officers elected were Mrs. ~~STUART~~ ^VTRANUM, Vice President, and Mrs. B. L. ~~TATE~~ ^V, Secretary-Treasurer. According to the article, Mrs. PENNINGTON announced that a membership meeting would be held the following Tuesday night. HIS

II. OFFICERS - STATE AND LOCAL

On March 28, 1955, ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary of the ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI, contacted reporting Agent at Winona, Mississippi, and furnished the names of the members of the State Executive Committee of the ASSOCIATION as follows:

[redacted] Lexington, Mississippi
[redacted] Winona, Mississippi
[redacted] Itta Bena, Mississippi
[redacted] Inverness, Mississippi
[redacted] Brooksville, Mississippi
FRED ANDERSON, Gloster, Mississippi
[redacted] Senatobia, Mississippi
[redacted] Carthage, Mississippi
[redacted] Winona, Mississippi, Treasurer
R. B. PATTERSON, Indianola, Mississippi, Secretary

In addition, PATTERSON furnished one mimeographed copy each of the constitution of the ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI (referred to hereinafter as ACCM) and the constitution used by individual Councils throughout the State. He stated that there are over fifty thousand (50,000) members of Citizens' Councils in Mississippi at this time.

PATTERSON further stated that [redacted] Winona, is a member of the Winona Council. He said that during the previous week [redacted] had gone with him (PATTERSON) to a meeting at Gadsden, Alabama, where an Alabama Group was forming Citizens' Councils.

On March 15, 1955, Confidential Informant Memphis T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, [redacted] stated that [redacted] an official at a local oil mill, is Chairman of the [redacted] Council. T-1 further stated that the Council at [redacted] has about died out, having had only two or three meetings to his knowledge, and is practically inactive at this time.

b6
b7C
b7D

An article appearing in "The Commonwealth", daily newspaper published at Greenwood, Mississippi, on May 11, 1955, disclosed that a district meeting of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS was held in Greenwood the night of May 10, 1955, attended by representatives of Councils from a wide area. According to the article, among those making talks was ~~BILL SIMMONS~~, Secretary for the Jackson Citizens' Council, which was formerly the Jackson States' Rights Association. Three members of the State Board of Directors of the ACCM were introduced by ~~ELLETT LAWRENCE~~ of Greenwood. They were:

MISS

ASSOCIATION
OF
CITIZENS
COUNCILS
OF
MISSISSIPPI

M. L. BRANCH, Winona, Mississippi
W. H. CURRY, Itta Bena, Mississippi
~~FRED JONES~~, Inverness, Mississippi

Also in attendance, according to the article, were:

H. ~~M.~~ ADAMS, Sidon, Mississippi
D. I. ~~S~~ SMITH, Sidon, Mississippi
WELDON ~~W~~ EASKIN, Vaiden, Mississippi
B. F. ~~W~~ WILEY, Vaiden, Mississippi
W. F. ~~B~~ BROWN, Schlater, Mississippi
HOWARD ~~M~~ CSHAN, Schlater, Mississippi
J. E. ~~H~~ HUGHES, Minter City, Mississippi
B. J. ~~R~~ ROBERSON, Minter City, Mississippi
M. L. BRANCH, Winona, Mississippi
B. F. ~~H~~ HEATH, Winona, Mississippi
W. S. ~~C~~ CURRY, Itta Bena, Mississippi
DAVE ~~H~~ AWKINS, Indianola, Mississippi
MARTIN ~~H~~ EARD, Leland, Mississippi
FRED JONES, Inverness, Mississippi
ELLETT LAWRENCE, Greenwood, Mississippi
GORDON L. ~~S~~ SMITH, Greenwood, Mississippi
ELLETT LAWRENCE, II, Greenwood, Mississippi
HARDY ~~L~~ OTT, Greenwood, Mississippi
HITE ~~M~~ CLEAN, Greenwood, Mississippi
C. L. ~~P~~ UCKETT, Belzoni, Mississippi
W. J. ~~S~~ SIMMONS, Jackson, Mississippi
OSCAR ~~W~~ OLFE, JR., Duncan, Mississippi
E. E. ~~S~~ SMITH, Glendora, Mississippi

The above-mentioned article did not indicate whether the persons listed as attending the meeting were officers of local Councils or whether they attended in some other capacity.

ASSOCIATION
OF
CITIZENS'
COUNCILS
OF
MISSISSIPPI

The following information relates to individuals who allegedly are members of Citizens' Councils, some being reported as officers:

An article in the March 10, 1955, issue of the "Delta Democrat Times", Greenville, Mississippi, disclosed that Mayor T. M. ~~PITTS~~, Indianola, Mississippi, stated he was a member of the Citizens' Council and that Mayor ~~MARTIN~~ BISHOP, Cleveland, Mississippi, had stated the Council groups are "composed of a representative cross section of our white, male population, both Jews and Catholics are members of local chapters."

An article appearing in the March 18, 1955, Mid-South Edition of the Memphis "Commercial Appeal" stated C. L. PUCKETT is Secretary of the Humphreys County Citizens' Council.

An article appearing in the Clarksdale, Mississippi, "Press Register" on March 18, 1955, indicated V. B. ~~MONTGOMERY~~, Attorney, Belzoni, Mississippi, has been active in the Citizens' Council.

The March 10, 1955, issue of the "Delta Democrat Times", Greenville, Mississippi, carried an article which reflected Mayor S. B. ~~BRIDGES~~ of Winona, Mississippi, is a member of the Citizens' Council.

III. STATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The following is copied from a mimeographed copy of the constitution of the ACCM, which was furnished to reporting Agent on March 28, 1955, by ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary:

"CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

"ARTICLE I

"NAME

"The name of this Association is 'THE ASSOCIATION
OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI.'

"ARTICLE II

"PURPOSES

"This Association is dedicated to the maintenance of peace, good order and domestic tranquility in our communities and in our state and to the preservation of our States' Rights.

"ARTICLE III

"RESTRICTION ON POWERS

"This Association shall not endeavor to advise, instruct or control any Citizens' Council, or member thereof as to any proposed course of action. It shall not have and shall not assume any power or control of any kind over any Citizens' Council or member thereof and shall not have and shall not assume any responsibility for any act of any Citizens' Council or member thereof.

"ARTICLE IV

"DIRECTORS

"Section 1. Each county within the State of Mississippi having one or more recognized Citizens' Councils therein may from and by the membership of such Council or Councils elect one director and one alternate director of this Association to serve until his successor shall have been elected. No county shall have more than one director and one alternate director.

"Section 2. The Executive Committee of this Association may at its pleasure request any director, or his alternate, to be recalled; and if the Citizens' Council or Councils of the county from which he was elected fails to recall him, then the directors of this Association may by a majority vote expel him from his office of director or alternate director.

"Section 3. An alternate director may vote and act as a director when the director for whom he is alternate is not present.

"ARTICLE V

"EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"Section 1. The directors of this Association shall elect from its membership a temporary Executive Committee to serve until their successors shall be elected as hereinafter set forth.

"Section 2. The temporary Executive Committee shall divide the State of Mississippi, or such part thereof as they think proper, into districts for the election of Executive Committeemen. No county may be partly in one district and partly in another.

"Section 3. The directors of each district shall from among the directors in that district elect one to serve on the Executive Committee. The Committeemen so elected and the officers of this Association shall constitute the Executive Committee, and shall serve until their successors be elected.

"Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have full power to operate and conduct the Association; to adopt by majority vote suitable by-laws for the Association, and from time to time to amend any such bylaws by majority vote; to elect the officers of this Association; and from time to time to change the boundaries of the districts provided for in Section 2 hereof and to establish new districts.

"Section 5. The term 'recognized Citizens' Council' as used in this Constitution shall be construed to mean such Citizens' Councils in Mississippi as are recognized by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may at any time in its discretion refuse to recognize any Citizens' Council or withdraw recognition from any such Council. No Citizens' Council not recognized by the Executive Committee shall take part in any election herein provided for or in any activity of this Association.

"Section 6. The temporary Executive Committee shall have all of the powers herein conferred upon the Executive Committee.

"Section 7. The Executive Committee may in its discretion incorporate this Association or cause same to be incorporated under the laws of Mississippi as a non-profit corporation without stock or stockholders.

"ARTICLE VI

"OFFICERS

"Section 1. The Executive Committee shall elect a Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary of this Association. The only qualification for said officers is that the person so elected shall be a member in good standing of some recognized Citizens' Council in Mississippi, and such person may or may not be a director or a member of the Executive Committee at the time of his election. Every officer so elected shall by virtue of his office be and become a member of the Executive Committee if he is not already a member thereof.

"Section 2. All officers except the Executive Secretary shall serve without remuneration. The salary of the Executive Secretary shall be fixed from time to time by the Executive Committee.

"Section 3. The term of all officers of this Association shall be as provided in the bylaws of the Association made under the authority of this Constitution.

"ARTICLE VII

"MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

"Section 1. The directors shall be elected annually at such time or times as the bylaws of this Association shall provide.

"Section 2. The directors shall once each year, or at such shorter intervals as the bylaws of this Association shall provide, elect members of the Executive Committee.

"Section 3. A majority of the directors present in person shall constitute a quorum. Any alternate present shall in the absence of the director for whom he is alternate be considered a director.

"Section 4. A majority of the Executive Committee present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

"Section 5. Meetings of the directors and Executive Committee shall be held at such times and places as may be provided by the bylaws of this Association; and in addition the Chairman and the Executive Secretary shall each have power to call special meetings of the directors and of the Executive Committee by giving five days written notice of the time and place of the meeting.

"ARTICLE VIII

"DUES

"Section 1. Each director shall pay such annual dues as shall be fixed by the Association. In the event of a failure of the bylaws to provide for such dues, then each director shall pay annually dues in the amount of \$1.00 for each member of a recognized Citizens' Council within the County from which he was elected.

"ARTICLE XI

"AMENDMENTS

"This Constitution may be amended or changed by a majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the directors."

PATTERSON stated that the Constitution furnished by him was used by individual Councils throughout the State as a model, and pointed out that this Constitution is identical in all respects to that previously reported as being the Constitution of the Citizens' Council of Indianola, Mississippi.

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS

By communication dated March 15, 1955, the Bureau requested attempts be made to obtain copies of affidavits allegedly executed by Negro farmers in the Lexington, Mississippi,

ME 105-121

area, alleging discrimination on the part of employees of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) at Lexington, in cooperation with the economic pressure movement of the White CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI.

On April 4, 1955, GUS COURTS, 193 Church Street, Belzoni, Mississippi, former President of the Belzoni Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), advised that a group of Negro farmers residing in the Marcella Government Project in Holmes County, Mississippi, but belonging to the Humphreys County Group, allegedly were denied FHA disaster loans on their farms until publicity about the situation appeared in the papers. He stated that since then, however, all except four have obtained Government loans and that of the four, two had their mortgages foreclosed and lost their farms and two will be foreclosed. He further stated that these four individuals brought about their own economic troubles because of their own mismanagement. He said they over borrowed on their land and some of them obtained private loans as well as FHA loans, and were unable to meet their payments.

COURTS indicated that he was aware of the affidavits which had been sent to the New York Office of the NAACP but stated that he did not have copies of them.

By communication dated March 31, 1955, the Bureau requested that T. V. JOHNSON and AUGUSTUS COURTS, Belzoni, Mississippi, be interviewed concerning allegations of economic pressure exerted upon them. This communication further requested that HODDING CARTER, Editor of the "Delta Democrat Times", Greenville, Mississippi, be interviewed for information in his possession concerning THE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI and that all facts upon which his article in "Look" magazine was based should be obtained.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]:

On March 25, 1955, HODDING CARTER, Owner and Editor of the "Delta Democrat Times" newspaper, Greenville, Mississippi, as well as Author and Lecturer, telephonically contacted Special Agent [redacted] and stated he had information which he wished to furnish the next day.

ME 105-121

On March 26, 1955, HODDING CARTER informed that on March 25, 1955, two Negroes came to his office to give information concerning the CITIZENS' COUNCILS. He said these two individuals were GUS COURTS, 193 South Church Street, and [redacted] both of Belzoni, Mississippi, the former being the operator of a small grocery store and the latter a small farmer. He stated these two Negroes said they preferred to have their names held in confidence but were agreeable to having their names used if necessary.

According to CARTER, the Negroes told him that either the local Citizens' Council at Belzoni, or members thereof, compiled a list of the names of approximately ninety-four (94) Negroes who have registered to vote, including COURTS and [redacted]. They alleged the list has been distributed to banks, stores, and all places of business in Humphreys County and that the persons having copies of this list refer to it before entering into any transaction with Negroes. They further alleged that it is virtually impossible for Negroes whose names appear on the list to obtain any credit, to rent buildings, or to obtain employment.

CARTER continued that the Negroes told him many of the persons whose names appear on the list have been approached individually, never by more than one person, and have been told that the economic pressure will be discontinued if the Negroes remove their names from the voters rolls. He stated that, to the best of his knowledge, there have been no actual threats of violence to date. However, he said that in his opinion the Negroes in Humphreys County will not attempt to vote because of fear of possible repercussions.

HODDING CARTER mentioned that an article concerning the list of Negroes at Belzoni was scheduled to appear in the "Delta Democrat Times" of March 27, 1955.

CARTER also stated that GUS COURTS [redacted] were desirous of being interviewed by a representative of the FBI.

The following article appeared in the "Delta Democrat Times" of March 27, 1955, under the by-line of DAVID BROWN:

"They Say

"THERE'S A LIST IN BELZONI

By DAVID BROWN

"BELZONI -- 'They can say it's not so, and it's just my word against their's. I don't have any witnesses, but you can talk to others--they don't have any witnesses either,' he said.

"So we took his advice. We talked to others.

"And all their stories together added up to a picture that was hard to deny in whole. The picture was one of shadowy threats and economic pressures.

"'They got a list.'

"You could hear that from any of them.

"'They got a list. Last time I saw, it was 94, but there's probably been some struck off since then.'

"The list of 94 were registered Negro voters in Humphries county.

"And it's a Black List in more ways than one.

"Because, we were told wherever we went, it's a list that every place of business in town has. And if a man wants credit to buy his groceries, his name better not be on that list. And if he expects to keep working at the mill, he better see he strikes his name from the voters' rolls. And if he wants to work on a new job around he better not have paid his poll tax.

"A tenant family had been on one plantation for 40 years. Maybe it was just a coincidence that they left the plantation, and that the father's name was on the list. The father says he was told privately that he could stay if he got his name off the roll books. But could he prove that? It's just his word against the planter's.

ME 105-121

"A couple of Negroes who had relied on the help of a certain public accountant for many years to make out their income tax forms, came to him as usual this year. But he said he was sorry. They would have to find help elsewhere. They were on his list.

"And an area-wide business concern began some construction near Isola. They are hiring labor there, but you better not have your name on the list that the job foreman has in his pocket, or you won't be 'suited' for the job.

"That's what they told us, the different ones.

"There were other stories, too. And there were rumors and worries. And in it all, a heart-warming piece of information.

"Some white folks got together and helped me out when I had my trouble," one man said. "No, sir, it's not all of them. There's some that don't like what's going on, but at the same time they don't make much talk. But there's been some that helped me. They helped me get some money. I wouldn't want to give you their names. Wouldn't want to hurt them. Citizens' Council might pressure them, too. Appreciate it if you wouldn't use my name, either.

"Thank you, sir."

On April 26, 1955, DAVID BROWN, Managing Editor of the "Delta Democrat Times", Greenville, Mississippi, advised Special Agent [] that he did considerable research concerning the CITIZENS' COUNCILS, interviewing a number of persons and collecting information from a number of sources. He said he turned over all his material to HODDING CARTER, who used it to write an article which appeared in "Look" magazine. BROWN said that to the best of his knowledge all the facts on which this article were based were fully developed and were set out therein.

On May 4, 1955, HODDING CARTER, Editor of the "Delta Democrat Times", Greenville, Mississippi, was recontacted. He advised that all facts in his possession on which his article in a recent issue of "Look" magazine was based were fully set out. He said that at the time he prepared this article he had

ME 105-121

additional information concerning a number of trivial matters which he deemed of insufficient importance to include but stated he had not retained his notes relative to these matters, and accordingly, he was unable to furnish any further information regarding them.

CARTER advised that he had no other information, in addition to that which he had previously furnished, concerning the CITIZENS' COUNCILS.

He mentioned that he had been told that a number of companies which advertise in the "Delta Democrat Times" had been approached by members of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS and had been told either to stop advertising in this paper or else to join the CITIZENS' COUNCILS. Representatives of these companies reportedly were told the companies would be boycotted by members of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS if they did not comply. He said he had received information that the following places, all in Greenville, had been approached:

Delta Implement Company
Quaker Oats Company
Nelms and Blum Department Store
Goyer Company
Ellis Hardware
Farnsworth Jewelry Store

In addition, he stated Dr. MISS reportedly was told he would lose numerous patients from among members of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS if he did not join this organization.

CARTER stated that his newspaper has lost approximately three hundred fifty (350) subscriptions due to opposing the CITIZENS' COUNCILS, a good many of these cancellations being directly attributed to the organization. He mentioned that he had received a report that a planter at Tribbett, Mississippi, had instructed all of his tenants to discontinue subscribing to this newspaper. He further stated that he had had a number of cancellations of job printing orders, which cancellations he believed to be a result of pressure or influence exerted by the CITIZENS' COUNCILS.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent GEORGE A. EVERETT:

ME 105-121

On April 7, 1955, an attempt was made to locate and interview T. V. JOHNSON, Operator of Johnson's Funeral Home, Belzoni, Mississippi, but it was determined that he was in New York City.

On April 11, 1955, JOHNSON advised that he did not authorize the newspaper stories mentioning him and "did not appreciate them." He declined to comment on the allegations of economic pressure used against him and stated that the Government was not "going to do anything about it" and, therefore, "he does not want to get involved." He said that the same thing had happened to him as had happened to others and that there were enough others who could furnish information to establish the facts.

JOHNSON stated that he had previously been involved in a Civil Rights matter concerning the refusal of the Sheriff in Belzoni to permit Negroes to pay poll tax; that nothing was accomplished by the Government; and that he did not desire to jeopardize his business by getting involved again.

On April 4, 1955, GUS COURTS, 193 A Church Street, Belzoni, Mississippi, Operator of Courts' Grocery at that address, advised that his name is not AUGUSTUS COURTS but is GUS COURTS.

COURTS stated that on about February 26, 1955, [] a White farmer who resides South of Belzoni, came to the store he formerly operated across the street from his present location and told him (COURTS) that if he did not remove his name from the list of registered voters he would have to get out of business and would not be hired by farmers to haul cotton choppers to their farms.

COURTS indicated that he asked [] if he had violated any law and [] replied that he had not.

According to COURTS, for the past three years he has hauled cotton choppers and cotton pickers to [] farm and that is probably the reason [] came, posing as a friend while advising him to remove his name from the voters list.

COURTS advised that [] showed him a list allegedly containing the names of all Negroes in Humphreys County who had paid their poll tax. He said [] told him that four hundred (400) paid their tax last year but that only ninety-four (94) paid it this year.

ME 105-121

COURTS stated that when he next went to pay his rent his landlord, [redacted] Belzoni, stated he had been offered seventy-five dollars (\$75) a month rental on the building and that if COURTS could not pay that amount he would have to vacate the building. COURTS said he indicated he could not pay that much rent a month and [redacted] told him he would have to move. COURTS further stated that he secured a building across the street (his present location), which was owned by [redacted] who resides next door. However, he stated his insurance was cancelled and he has been unable to obtain insurance on his store or goods.

In addition, COURTS said that about the middle of March, 1955, [redacted] a large landowner, Belzoni, came to see him, at which time he had a copy of "the list". He stated [redacted] asked him if he intended voting in the next election. COURTS said he then inquired if it was against the law for him to vote, to which [redacted] replied that it was not. According to COURTS, he then told [redacted] that if it were not against the law he would vote and that [redacted] indicated, "That's all I want to know."

According to COURTS, neither [redacted] nor [redacted] threatened any violence or made any effort to harm him in any way, but indicated that he would have to move, lose his credit, and possibly lose his business.

COURTS stated that his first contact with the CITIZENS' COUNCILS activities was when he was President of the NAACP Chapter at Belzoni. He said that about the end of August, 1954, he was warned by [redacted] that economic pressure would be put on him if he did not resign as President of the NAACP in Belzoni. He stated he resigned as President but retained his membership in this organization. He advised that the matter under discussion at that time did not concern voting but was related to whether or not the Belzoni NAACP Group would agree to voluntary segregation if the local Colored schools were improved.

COURTS continued that on the occasion of the August, 1954, visit by [redacted] had him accompany him to a meeting of a group of White men at the Guaranty Bank in Belzoni, at which meeting [redacted] told him (COURTS) that economic pressure would be applied against him if he did not resign as NAACP President at Belzoni. He said they also asked him for the voluntary release of the names of all NAACP members in Humphreys County but that he refused to furnish such names. He stated he was told that he did not have to

ME 105-121

furnish them, that no physical force was used, and that he was not threatened.

COURTS advised that subsequent to that meeting he was aided financially by [redacted] of the Citizens Bank at Belzoni.

COURTS furnished the following information relative to NAACP members in that area:

He stated that [redacted] a farmer, is financially independent and has not been bothered by the CITIZENS' COUNCILS to date. He pointed out that [redacted] had gone with him to Greenville, Mississippi, as a companion, when he furnished information to HODDING CARTER.

He said that [redacted] who resides on [redacted] [redacted] Belzoni, has not been bothered by the CITIZENS' COUNCILS as he is in good financial condition.

MISS He indicated that [redacted] who resides North of his (COURTS') store on [redacted] Belzoni, and who is employed by [redacted] Belzoni, for some time has been paying for a truck which he was buying from [redacted] having reduced the indebtedness from twenty-two hundred dollars (\$2,200) to eight hundred dollars (\$800) by the beginning of 1955. At that time, [redacted] allegedly told [redacted] to pay off the balance or lose the truck. COURTS stated it was further alleged that [redacted] told [redacted] that if he would return his poll tax receipt to the Sheriff's Office and take his name off the registered voters list he could keep the truck and continue paying it out. [redacted] reportedly tore up his poll tax receipt when the Sheriff refused to accept it. [redacted] then allegedly took the truck a few weeks later and [redacted] had to borrow money from the Citizens Bank to pay the balance on his truck and regain possession of it. He said that [redacted] (first name unknown) [redacted] Company, reportedly signed the note which enabled [redacted] to borrow the money to finish paying for his truck.

COURTS stated he had been advised that [redacted] Accountant, Belzoni, refused to handle the books of [redacted] a farmer, because [redacted] name appeared on "the list." He said, however, that [redacted] another Accountant at Belzoni, who handles his (COURTS') [redacted] agreed to handle [redacted] books.

ME 105-121

COURTS stated that [redacted] MISS Embalmer and Insurance Collector, Delta Burial Association, Belzoni, was barred from going on the farms of the [redacted] in the community because his name was on "the list" and that tenants on those farms were forced to drop their Delta Burial Insurance and Burial Insurance with T. V. JOHNSON, Belzoni, following which their Burial Insurance was placed with the [redacted] Indianola, Mississippi. COURTS pointed out that the [redacted] is also operated by Negroes.

COURTS further stated that during the latter part of March, 1955, [redacted] a farmer, told a tenant on his farm, MASON PAYNE, who had resided on that farm for forty (40) years, to tear up his poll tax receipt or move. PAYNE, he said, did not tear up his poll tax receipt, but moved to Belzoni.

In addition, COURTS stated that all residents on the McDaniels Government Farm Project, located West of Isola, Mississippi, tore up their poll tax receipts when economic pressure was threatened them individually by lone White men contacting them. COURTS indicated he did not know the identity of these persons.

The individual referred to by COURTS as [redacted] MISS Embalmer and Insurance Collector for the Delta Burial Association, Belzoni, was later determined to be [redacted] of the Belzoni Office of the Delta Burial Association.

On April 4, 1955, [redacted] advised that he had been verbally requested by [redacted] MISS to come to see him at the farm called [redacted] South of Belzoni on a date which he could not recall. He stated [redacted] told him that because he had paid his poll tax the Burial Insurance of tenants on that plantation, which had been held by the Delta Burial Association, had been transferred to the Smith and Dillon Funeral Home at Indianola.

[redacted] stated that he had recently lost an account on the farm of [redacted] but that he was not contacted by [redacted] concerning it.

He further stated that when he had talked to [redacted] [redacted] did not act mad, had used no force, and had made no threats, but had simply told him that he had moved the insurance account.

ME 105-121

On May 10, 1955, when contacted with regard to another investigation, [redacted] advised that he had been approached by [redacted] of Belzoni, Mississippi, with whom he has done considerable business, at which time [redacted] in a friendly manner, suggested that it would be personally beneficial to [redacted] if he removed his name from the voting rolls. He said [redacted] pointed out that he [redacted] had a good business and told him it would be to the advantage of this business if he removed his name from the voters list.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

On April 4, 1955, Reverend WILLIAM ROBERT REYNOLDS, President of the Belzoni Chapter of the NAACP, who resides at Isola, Mississippi, and who is an independent salesman handling the products of Keystone Laboratories, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he is no longer a "preacher" but continues to use the title "Reverend". REYNOLDS said that he is overage and is exempt from the payment of poll tax. He stated he went to Deputy Sheriff [redacted] at Belzoni to get a certificate of exemption and was sent to the Circuit Court Clerk, [redacted]. He said that at that time [redacted] told him she did not have a book. He indicated that later [redacted] filled out his exemption certificate and gave it to him.

REYNOLDS further advised that on about December 17, 1954, while on the street in Inverness, Mississippi, he was called to a pickup truck occupied by three young White men, [redacted] of Isola, [redacted] and one whose last name is [redacted]. According to REYNOLDS, he was then told by one of them that he should remove his name from the list of registered voters and that when he told them he would not do this they left. He stated he expected them to use violence but that no threats, curses, force, or abuse of any kind, had been used by them. He pointed out he did not believe they would ever have contacted him at Isola, Mississippi, because he has "good White friends there who would help him."

REYNOLDS indicated that a few minutes later, on this same date, in Inverness, [redacted] a man from Isola, whom he has known for many years, talked to him for about an hour and tried to persuade him to take his name off the voters list on the basis of "friendship". He said he told [redacted] that he would not take his name off the voters list, and then told [redacted] about the contact made by the above-mentioned three men. He advised that [redacted] stated they were "hotheaded" and for him not to pay any attention to them.

ME 105-121

REYNOLDS stated that about five minutes after terminating his conversation with [] while walking alone on the street in Inverness, ^{MISS} the local Marshal, [] came to him and told him that the Mayor of Inverness had ordered him to search REYNOLDS as he had received a complaint that REYNOLDS had "made a pistol break" on three White boys. REYNOLDS said he did not object to the search as [] approached him in a friendly fashion and he wanted the people to know that he did not have a gun. He stated he voluntarily submitted to a search and that no gun was found.

On May 13, 1955, the following individuals stated they had not been approached by anyone about removing their names from the registered voters list:

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE

[] Belzoni

[] Belzoni ^{MISS}

[] Belzoni ^{MISS}

It is to be noted that the above individuals are members of the NAACP in Belzoni.

[] Belzoni, on April 4, 1955, stated that he had gone to the Sheriff's Office at Belzoni on February 1, 1955, to pay his taxes. He said he had sufficient funds to pay all the taxes on his store, house and trucks, but did not have enough to pay the taxes on his farm. He stated that the person at the counter, whose identity he did not know, told him he would have to pay all of his taxes before he could pay his poll tax.

[] said he then sent his wife to get the rest of the money and that his wife returned with the money at approximately 3:50 P.M. He stated that when the employees in the Sheriff's Office saw him coming they closed the door and walked out.

[] stated that [] wife had just paid her poll tax and came out of the Sheriff's Office as he originally entered. ^{MISS}

[] said that he feels the action of the employees of the Sheriff's Office was a part of the effort of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS to keep Negroes from voting.

ME 105-121

It is to be noted that on February 4, 1955, when contacted in connection with another matter, Sheriff I. J. SHELTON advised that he would probably be reported for a civil rights violation and that he desired to make the facts of the matter known at that time since he felt he had acted legally. *Belzoni MISS*

SHELTON stated that the tax books of his office had been open and taxes collectible from the first business day of January, 1955. He indicated that his official closing hour is 5:00 P.M. He said that on February 1, 1955, which was the last day a person could legally pay his poll tax and the last day he could pay his property tax without penalty, [redacted] a Negro store operator at Belzoni, came to the Sheriff's Office at 4:45 P.M. to pay his taxes. When the amount of the taxes was figured and [redacted] finished counting his money at approximately 4:55 P.M. he lacked seventy dollars (\$70.00) having enough to pay all of his taxes, which is a prerequisite to paying the poll tax. According to SHELTON, neither [redacted] nor his wife returned to the Sheriff's Office by the 5:00 P.M. closing time. SHELTON stated he feels [redacted] in view of his past activities, was deliberately trying to get the basis for a complaint against him because he had waited until the last fifteen minutes of the full month in which he was allowed to pay his taxes and then made no effort to remain in the Sheriff's Office but left, apparently so the door could be locked on him. He further stated that since that time [redacted] has not returned to pay his taxes and has not requested that he be permitted to pay his poll tax after the books were closed.

- P *

ME 105-121

INFORMANT

Confidential Informant T-1 is [redacted] who requested that his identity be kept confidential. Careful consideration has been given to use of T Symbol in this report and it is believed one used is necessary in view of [redacted] request.

b6
b7C
b7D

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION

LEAD

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will remain alert for, and report, further activities on the part of the CITIZENS' COUNCILS.

REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent GEORGE A. EVERETT dated February 16, 1955
Bureau Memorandum to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III dated March 15, 1955
New York Letter to Bureau dated March 29, 1955
Bureau Memorandum to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III dated March 31, 1955
Bureau Memorandum to Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III dated April 6, 1955

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

SAC, Memphis
(44-400)

PERSONAL ATTENTION

5/27/55

Director, FBI (44-3949)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/24/01 BY 6247 MJS/LLH
91842

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
BELZONI, MISSISSIPPI;
REVEREND WILLIE GEORGE LEE - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

There is transmitted herewith to each office a copy of a memorandum from the Criminal Division under date of May 24, 1955. Also attached for each office is a Photostat of each of the following items:

Memorandum dated 5/13/55, from Mrs. Hurley.

Memorandum to Mr. Wilkins from Mrs. Ruby Hurley, dated 4/8/55.

Letter to President Eisenhower, dated 5/3/55, from Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr.

Letter dated 5/11/55, to the Attorney General from [redacted] of Jackson, Mississippi.

There is also being furnished to each office a copy of "Jet" magazine, dated 5/26/55, which contains an article concerning the incident in Belzoni. There is also being furnished to the New Orleans and Birmingham Offices one copy each of the report of SA George A. Everett, dated 5/19/55, at Memphis, Tennessee, captioned "Unknown Subjects; Reverend George Lee - Victim; Unknown Subject; Dr. T. R. M. Howard - Victim, Civil Rights; Extortion."

It is noted the Department has requested that a full investigation be instituted to determine if a conspiracy exists to injure or intimidate Negro citizens in enjoyment of their right to vote by reason

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Enclosure

cc: 2 Birmingham (Encls. 2)
2 New Orleans (Encls. 2)

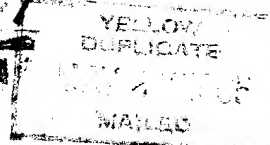
CLM:ush

(10)

cc: Liaison (NOTE: cc Liaison Section with request that Mr. Bryce Harlow, the White House, be briefed regarding developments.)

cc: Bufile 105-34237

199 JUN 2 1955



65 JUN 9 1955

of threats of personal injury, application of economic pressures or otherwise. The Department specifically requests that the investigation determine the circumstances of the death of victim Lee and whether his death occurred as a result of or in the execution of a conspiracy to injure or intimidate him so far as his right or the rights of other Negroes to vote is concerned.

Department further requests that as a part of the investigation a check be made of the Humphrey County registration records to determine the number of Negroes registered in January 1953, the highest number registered at any one time after January 1953, and the number of Negroes now registered. In the event the investigation should indicate that Negroes have been threatened or intimidated into discontinuing their registration, such Negroes, or a reasonable number, should be interviewed, according to instructions from the Criminal Division.

The investigation requested by the Criminal Division should be immediately instituted. Investigation must be handled only by mature experienced Agent personnel. Each person interviewed should be specifically advised that this investigation is being conducted at the request of Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

The Birmingham Office should interview Mrs. Ruby Hurley, an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, stationed in Birmingham. Mrs. Hurley should be interviewed for full details regarding information developed by her during the course of her investigation in Belzoni, Mississippi, as set forth in her memorandum dated 5/13/55. She should be particularly interviewed regarding information appearing on page 3 of the memorandum as to the sources of information identifying [redacted] colored, and a white man named [redacted] (?) reported to have been occupants of the convertible which passed Reverend Lee's car at the time of the accident. She should be further questioned as to the source of the statement that there were three cars involved in the killing. Mrs. Hurley should be interviewed regarding statements made in the enclosed copy of "Jet" that the names of several eyewitnesses were being kept secret by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and one white man had been identified by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She should be interviewed in order to ascertain if there were any other eyewitnesses known to her in addition to those mentioned in her memorandum of 5/13/55.

The New Orleans Office should interview [redacted]
[redacted] Jackson, Mississippi, for all details he

has regarding the incident involving victim Lee. [] should be further interviewed for details concerning the statement made by him in his letter to the Attorney General of 5/11/55, that persons had been arrested and incarcerated without due process of law at times to remove them from the scene of investigations. The identities of such individuals should be ascertained and the Bureau advised of all details obtained from [] regarding such incidents. New Orleans should also interview Field Secretary Evers, who accompanied Mrs. Ruby Hurley during her investigation in Belzoni, Mississippi. Evers should be questioned regarding the information developed and should be particularly interviewed along the same lines as set forth for the interview with Mrs. Hurley. At Yazoo City, Mississippi, interview [] or [] who reportedly examined the body of victim Lee immediately after the accident, for all information he has regarding the incident. Interview secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Yazoo City for information that Negroes were having their names removed from the registration books under pressure of the White Citizens Council, according to information set forth on page 2 of the 5/13/55, memorandum from Mrs. Hurley.

The Memphis Office should prepare a chart of the area where the accident occurred. This chart should show the approximate location of the houses in the neighborhood, the two automobiles observed by witnesses, and the approximate location at the time of the accident of persons who are interviewed.

In conducting the investigation, the Memphis Office should bear in mind that metal particles, similar in weight and composition to #3 buckshot, were found in the inner tube of the left front tire of the car of victim Lee and the left side of the face of the victim was injured, which would indicate the shots may have been fired from the left side of the road and not from an automobile passing on the right-hand side of victim's car. It is possible that the shots may have been fired by an individual stationed on a porch in the neighborhood on the left side of the street or by a person standing along the left side of the roadway.

Information has been received from Senator Eastland that it has been fairly well established that Reverend Lee had spent approximately four hours with the wife of another colored citizen of Belzoni and it was this colored citizen who did the shooting. It was reported that Sheriff Shelton had this information and was not furnishing it to the Bureau but planned to make a public an-

nouncement at a later date. Sheriff Shelton should be contacted and efforts made to ascertain the identity of the colored woman with whom Lee allegedly spent four hours. Upon ascertaining her identity you should, of course, endeavor to account for the activities of her husband on 5/7/55.

Memphis should interview the following individuals for all information they have regarding the incident and to ascertain through them identities of other eyewitnesses:

[redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi.

[redacted] who transported victim's body to hospital.

[redacted] Belzoni, Mississippi.

[redacted] who is mentioned on page 3 of the memorandum of Mrs. Hurley dated 5/13/55.

[redacted] also mentioned on page 3 of the memorandum of Mrs. Hurley dated 5/13/55.

[redacted] of [redacted]

[redacted] employed at a wholesale grocery operated by a [redacted]

[redacted] of Greenwood, Mississippi.

[redacted] should be questioned regarding statement allegedly made to him by Reverend Lee "that someone from the courthouse" had told Lee to take his name off the registration books. According to the memorandum of Mrs. Hurley dated 5/13/55, this statement was made to [redacted] on the same date that victim Lee was killed.

[redacted] who are mentioned on page 9 in report of SA George A. Everett dated 5/19/55, Memphis, in instant case.

You should also reinterview [] who reported, according to Mrs. Hurley, that she saw flash from the gun and white persons in the car which passed at the time of the accident.

Reinterview [] to ascertain identity of individual who asked her to call the ambulance and full details regarding her alleged contact with victim Lee at the scene of the accident.

Reinterview [] regarding economic pressures against him and other members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for failure to remove their names from the list of registered voters.

[] Johnson's Funeral Home, Belzoni, should be reinterviewed and you should ascertain the identity of his companion on 5/7/55, so that person may also be interviewed.

You should interview the brother of [] (mentioned on page 17 in report of SA Everett) to identify the girl who allegedly witnessed the incident.

Interview [] (mentioned on page 4 of the memorandum of Mrs. Hurley dated 5/13/55.) for any information regarding the incident.

During the course of the investigation you should ascertain information regarding [] colored, and a white man named [] (?), mentioned as having been involved in the killing of victim Lee.

You should contact Sheriff Shelton and Chief of Police N. L. Nichols regarding identity of woman who allegedly had been with the victim prior to or at the time of the accident. This individual should be thoroughly interviewed in this matter.

It is noted that the enclosed copy of "Jet" reflects that a Negro [] who said she saw the shooting, suddenly moved from her home and has not been seen since. The memorandum of Mrs. Hurley dated 5/13/55, says [] who lived across the street had observed the whole episode and knew who was in the killers' car. It was indicated [] was not going to talk about the matter and had moved away on 5/9/55. It is possible that [] or [] (as mentioned on page 3 of the report of SA Everett) is the unidentified Negro [] who suddenly moved from the area. The possibility exists that this individual may have

been the alleged female companion of victim Lee on 5/7/55, prior to his death.

Interviews should be conducted with individuals mentioned in the memoranda prepared by Mrs. Hurley as reporting that economic pressure or threats had been made against Negroes to have their names removed from the list of registered voters.

In view of the allegations in this matter, signed statements should be obtained wherever possible from the witnesses to the incident involving victim Lee and all persons interviewed regarding the removal of names from the registration list.

All logical leads developed during the course of the investigation must be afforded immediate investigative attention.

The Birmingham and New Orleans Offices should afford their leads immediate attention so that the results thereof will be available to the Memphis Office at the very outset of the investigation. Memphis origin.

Buded 6/10/55.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

FROM : SAC, Memphis (105-121)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
 (New Orleans OO)

DATE: 6/6/55

Rerep SA GEORGE A. EVERETT dated 5/23/55, Memphis.

Line 12 of the synopsis should be corrected to read Reverend WILLIAM R. REYNOLDS, father than WILLIAM A. REYNOLDS, the error apparently being typographical.

GAE:ER
 (4)

CC: 1 - New Orleans (105-492)

*Connection with
 an original. All
 other copies (5)
 disseminated*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3/24/01 BY 60267 WLS/K/CM

91542

105-34237-1
 10 JUN 8 1955

Baunty
INT

377

60 JUN 10 1955



b6
b7C

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

June 8, 1955

Director, FBI

① ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI FILE 105-34237

1-1
2-1
11-1

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 24, 1955, your reference WO:WVH:vaw, 144-2-130, captioned "White Citizens Councils." Reference is also made to my reply thereto dated March 31, 1955.

There is being furnished you herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent George A. Everett dated May 15, 1955, at Memphis, Tennessee, in the captioned matter.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/29/07 BY 602247 WLS/KP/LLK

Enclosure

918 421

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
William P. Tompkins

(With Enclosure)

SECRET

105-34237-

RECORDED - 72

11 JUN 9 1955

CFW:bas
(6)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

66 JUN 15 1955

COMM - FBI
JUN 8 1955
MAILED 26

Handwritten notes and signatures

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIR TEL

Transmit the following TELETYPE message to BUREAU (REGISTERED MAIL)
FBI, PHILA. (100-31535) 6/7/55 NEW YORK (REGISTERED MAIL)

CIVIL RIGHTS CONGRESS, IS [REDACTED]

On 6/6/55, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished to SA [REDACTED] a one-page mimeographed "Resolution on Wanton Murder of Rev. LEE," which states it was unanimously adopted 5/24/55 by the North Phila. Civil Rights Committee (meeting 5/24/55 was sponsored by CRC). It was obtained from [REDACTED] This resolution criticizes the murder of Rev. GEORGE W. LEE of Belzoni, Miss., 5/7/55, "by alleged gunmen of the White Citizens Council because he refused to heed their order to destroy his poll tax receipt and erase his name from the list of registered voters....." It claims that crimes against Negro people are whitewashed by county, state and federal authorities. Resolution demands of Pres. EISENHOWER and Attorney General BROWNELL that the Dept. of Justice immediately investigate this murder and prosecute those responsible for it and also investigate White Citizens Council "whose program, aims and purposes are to intimidate and terrorize the Negro people fighting for full Constitutional liberties, civil and human rights."

MC CASE

WEH/tgm
(3BU,1NY,5PH)

cc:100-38688 [REDACTED]
100-33636 (CP,USA, DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION ISSUES)
[REDACTED]
100-38290 sub A - Library

Mr. Belmont

cc [REDACTED]

105-3121-22
10 JUN 8 1955
INDEXED - 109
EX - 103

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent [] M Per []

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Gandy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60247NLS
918421 EPI/hh

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III
105-34237-22
Director, FBI

June 10, 1955

G.A.H.

①
P 801
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZEN'S COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI FILE 105-34237

For your information, a confidential informant of the Philadelphia Office of this Bureau, who has furnished reliable information in the past, has made available a mimeographed leaflet captioned "Resolution on Wanton Murder of Rev. Lee," which was adopted at a meeting of a North Philadelphia Civil Rights Committee sponsored by the Civil Rights Congress on May 24, 1955. This resolution criticizes the murder of Rev. George W. Lee of Belzoni, Mississippi, on May 7, 1955, "by alleged gunmen of the White Citizens Council because he refused to heed their order to destroy his poll tax receipt and erase his name from the list of registered voters...." The resolution claims that crimes against Negro people are whitewashed by county, state, and Federal authorities. The resolution demands of President Eisenhower and Attorney General Brownell that the Department of Justice immediately investigate this murder and prosecute those responsible for it and also investigate White Citizens Council "whose program, aims and purposes are to intimidate and terrorize the Negro people fighting for full Constitutional liberties, civil and human rights."

The Civil Rights Congress has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

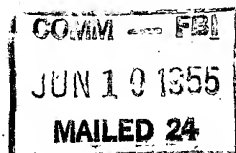
2cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/81 BY 60327 NLS/EP/

NOTE ON YELLOW: The correct caption of the White Citizens Council is the Association of Citizen's Councils of Mississippi. This organization is the subject of an active Internal Security - X investigation.

CFW:mc *mc*
(6)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____



Handwritten signatures and initials:
JFH
G.A.H.
7/23/55
OK

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. L. V. BOARDMAN *6-18-55*

DATE: June 16, 1955

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *6-18-55*SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'
RIGHTS MOVEMENTS
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
BUFILE 105-34237

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Reference is made to the attached memorandum to you dated 5-16-55 in which background of the captioned groups and the Bureau's responsibilities in connection therewith are set out. The recommendation in that memorandum was that we continue to have the field follow the activities of these organizations and continue to furnish the reports thereon to the Department. The Director noted "O.K. H."

In view of the Supreme Court decision of 5-31-55 concerning integration of Negroes and whites in public schools, it is believed desirable to advise the field of the potential of these groups and of the Bureau's responsibilities and desires relative thereto.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached proposed SAC Letter so advising the field be approved.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/07 BY 60267MLS/EP/LSC
918421

Enclosures - 2 *sent 6-17-55*CFW:bas *bas*
(5)

1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 -
1 -

RECORDED-96

INDEXED-96

2 JUN 21 1955

5 JUN 27 1955
7152

MISSISSIPPI

(N) CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS - INTERNAL SECURITY
- X⁴ -- Since Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, re integration of Negroes and whites in public schools, autonomous organizations under various names have been formed in ten states for the ostensible purpose of maintaining segregation. These organizations are for the most part made up of prominent citizens who are opposed to any use of force and violence. These groups disclaim affiliation with or similarity to the Ku Klux Klan and avowedly intend to achieve their objective by exerting economic pressure on members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Negro voters and integrationists.

Bureau policy is that we do not investigate groups that advocate and employ legal means to achieve their objective; however, where advisable the field is authorized to investigate organizations established for purpose of combatting or advocating affirmative action against racial minorities or seeking to deprive individuals of their rights under the Constitution.

Upon receipt of information concerning formation of such an organization in your territory you should advise the Bureau immediately by letter setting forth pertinent data relative to the organization and individuals connected therewith. No investigation should be conducted without prior Bureau authority.

The Department has advised that conspiracy to injure or intimidate Negro citizens in their rights to vote by threats of personal injury, application of economic pressure or otherwise, would seem to be violative of the provisions of Title 18, U.S.C. 241. At such time as integration is made mandatory under the Supreme Court decision of May 31, 1955, or prior thereto, these organizations or individual members may take extralegal action possibly resulting in civil rights violations. I am vitally concerned with this possibility and desire that we have complete data relative to these organizations and their members prior to any incidents which may take place. You will be held personally responsible to furnish the

6/21/55

SAC LETTER NO. 55-40

- 11 -

105-34237-✓

NOT RECORDED

JUN 27 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60267 WLS/KP/LHJ
4918421

55 JUN 30 1955

ORIGINAL FILED IN 60-41

Bureau promptly data relative to the formation of these organizations and thereafter to take necessary action to keep the Bureau apprised on a continuing basis of all pertinent developments.

In view of the nature of these groups, your inquiries should be handled most discreetly in order to avoid any embarrassment to the Bureau. Whenever possible inquiries should be directed to established reliable sources only.

For your information reports submitted on these organizations will be furnished the Department for consideration under Executive Order 10450 whereby the Attorney General may designate any organization which has "adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force and violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution of the United States."

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover

Director

Attachments for (D) & (L)

6/21/55

SAC LETTER NO. 55-40

- 12 -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: June 17, 1955

Tolson	✓
Boardman	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Harbo	✓
Mohr	✓
Parsons	✓
Rosen	✓
Tamm	✓
Sizoo	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Gandy	✓

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi

Mr. Clegg talked to me on the telephone on June 17, 1955, and also sent me the attached clipping from the Jackson Daily News containing the picture of W. J. Simmons of Jackson, Mississippi, the Administrator of the State Citizens Council. The clipping is attached.

Mr. Clegg stated that the State Citizens Council represents a membership of the wealthier, substantial good folks of Mississippi, who are dead set against integration in the schools and who will not depart from their traditional position of upholding segregation. Mr. Clegg stated that the Council is directing their fire at several of the leading colleges and universities in the state and they have also taken on the Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church, and they are really biting off more than they can chew. Mr. Clegg told me that Dr. William Simmons, Meridian, Mississippi, teaches at the University of Mississippi; that at one time Simmons had been a leader in the Silver Shirts movement.

Mr. Clegg merely wanted us to have this information. I thanked him.

cc: Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
LBN:arm
(4)

ENCL.

RECORDED-96
INDEXED-96

12 JUN 23 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60221 MK/SJS
91842

Citizens Councils Heads Meet at Canton



Purpose and aims of the Mississippi Association of Citizens Councils were explained at the first official meeting with the press Thursday night at Canton. Robert Patterson (second from left), executive secretary of the state group, said 253 councils with a total membership of "50,000 to 60,000 white males" have been organized and "dedicated to peaceful law enforcement. We are

not anti-anybody, anything or any race, but we are a counter group to the NAACP." (Left to right) Mayor Marion Simpson of Canton, Mr. Patterson, W. J. Simmons of Jackson, administrator of the State Citizens Council Assn., and State Sen. Earl Evans of Canton. (Staff photo by Phil Stroupe.)

Left-Wing Tendencies Uncovered Liberals In State Education Lashed By Spokesman For Citizens Councils

By DOUGLAS STARR

CANTON, Miss. (AP)—Two spokesmen for the white Citizens Councils, dedicated to keeping segregation in all walks of Mississippi life, denied the councils are "anti-Negro, anti-race, anti-creed, or anti-anybody."

On the contrary, they said, "we are organized to maintain segregation by peaceful and legal means" and to use every legal resource to resist attempts at breaking down Mississippi's traditional way of life

since reconstruction days.

Targets for questions from a battery of newsmen last night for the first time in the councils' one-year existence were Robert Patterson of Winona, executive secretary, and Bill Simmons of Jackson, administrator for the Association of Citizens Councils in Mississippi.

Later, Patterson said he spoke only for the state association which he described as a 10-man group elected from Citizens Councils throughout the state.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60347 MMS
918421 BPL/mh

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

June 10, 1955

105-34237-24
ENCLOSURE

Each Citizens Council, he said, is autonomous and may act on its own initiative and may reject the state group's suggestions of ideals and courses of action.

He said his rolls totaled 55,000 members who belong to the 253 chapters in many counties.

Simmons charged that extreme liberal thinking — away from the traditions of social, educational and religious segregation of the races — is being taught in many educational and religious institutions throughout the nation.

Pressed for examples, Simmons listed the University of Mississippi, Millsaps College in Jackson, and the University of North Carolina "where many southern teachers receive their degrees."

Three religious institutions that came under his fire were the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Mo., the Presbyterian Conference

in Virginia, and the Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service in Jackson, all of which voted to uphold the U. S. Supreme Court's decision outlawing segregation.

He termed such action "left-wing tendencies."

Simmons explained the reason for the councils' existence:

"We oppose integration. We hope to mobilize public sentiment against integration."

The Mississippi way of life, "which we have lived under because our society is based on segregation, was threatened to attack by men who are trained revolutionaries. We banded together for protection."

He did not identify the "revolutionaries."

Another reason for the councils, Patterson said, is "to have some organization to withstand the NAACP and other powerful pressure groups" which work upon courts and politicians.

He said he believes the Supreme Court decision was wrong and that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which he said "pressured" for such a ruling, would meet resistance "proportionate to the NAACP's pressure."

Mississippi "is not going to integrate," he said. "We were integrated 75 years ago by force by the U. S. government. We don't believe integration works."

100-55)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/01 BY 60247 ML SEP 1 1955

TO:

Director
Mr. Tolson, 5744
Mr. Boardman, 5736
Mr. Belmont, 1742
Mr. Harbo, 5256
Mr. Mohr, 5517
Mr. Parsons, 7621
Mr. Rosen, 5706
Mr. Tamm, 4130 IB
Mr. Keay, 1742
Mr. Nichols, 5640
Mr. McGuire, 5642
Mr. Wick, 5634
Mr. DeLoach, 5636
Mr. Morgan, 5625
Mr. Jones, 4236
Mr. Leonard 6222 IB
Mr. Waikart, 7204
Mr. Eames, 7206
Mr. Wherry, 5537

Mr. Sizoo, 5744
Miss Gandy, 5633
Mr. Holloman, 5633
Records Section
Pers. Records, 6631
Reading Room, 5531
Mail Room, 5533
Teletype, 5644
Code Room, 4642
Mechanical, B-114
Supply Room, B-118
Tour Room, 5625

See Me
For your info

action

L. B. Nichols
Room 5640, Ext. 691

FACTS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60247ML5/68

JUNE, 1955

Vol. 10, No. 4

The Citizens Councils and the
Desegregation Issue Page 51

Published by
THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

THE CITIZENS COUNCILS AND THE DESEGREGATION ISSUE

THE simmering issue of desegregation of the schools has now reached its second and more decisive phase. Its initial stage was brought to a close last month when the United States Supreme Court handed down its long-awaited enforcing decree, which spells out how its 1954 mandate against segregated schools is to be carried out. This decree directs the states to proceed in good faith and end segregation within a "reasonable" time, but sets no deadline for its accomplishment. And the lower federal courts are given the task of determining the effectiveness of planned procedures for bringing about the gradual transition to school desegregation.

On the whole, the Court's enforcing decree was favorably received throughout the country, though some dissenting voices were raised in the South. The High Court was particularly commended for its moderation and restraint and for its wisdom in giving due recognition to the local complexities involved in initiating a desegregation program.

Typical was the comment by the New York Herald Tribune (June 1, 1955), which noted that the "wisdom of the Supreme Court's decision is that it is broad enough to fit all circumstances and yet so tight that there is no chance for avoidance." "The mandate is clear, fair and reasonable," the paper added. "There is no compromise with principle here. This is common sense application—in equal parts of practical understanding and firm determination."

The one-year interval since the Supreme Court on May 17, 1954 ruled against segregated schools has significantly advanced the start of an orderly changeover, except in the deep South and a few areas elsewhere. The states directly affected by the desegregation ruling have witnessed no large-scale disturbances, though at one time Milford, Del., Baltimore and White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., bristled with the threat of violence. And the numerous new groups, some of them recruited from former Ku Klux Klan elements, which cropped up in the wake of the Supreme Court decision, have to date made no major impact. Many of them seem to be biding their time in the fomenting of trouble.*

One of the groups, however, which still pose some serious concern is the Association of Citizens Councils. The Citizens

* See Facts, Sept. 1954.

Councils are subjected to an insidious kind of pressure, the use of economic sanctions to force non-compliance with the Supreme Court's mandate.

They are active principally in Mississippi, where they are organized on a statewide basis, with a claimed membership of 25,000. The state organization was formally constituted in October, 1954.

The First Council

The first Council was organized in the town of Indianola, Miss., by a small group which met secretly. It included Robert B. Patterson, a Holly Ridge planter who subsequently became executive secretary of the state organization; Herman Moore, head of the Indianola bank who later became chairman of the Indianola Citizens Council; and an attorney by the name of Arthur Clark, Jr.

The minutes of this first meeting, distributed to a carefully selected mailing list, contained this note:

"It is the thought of our group that the solution of this problem (desegregation) may become easier if various agitators and the like could be removed from the communities in which they now operate. We propose to accomplish this through the careful application of economic pressures."

A formal accompanying statement, signed by Patterson, exhorted Council members to familiarize themselves with a number of publications, many of them blatantly anti-Semitic as well as anti-Negro. Some are anti-Catholic. They included the publications of Gerald L. K. Smith, Conde McGinley, Frank Britton, John Hamilton, and Gerald Winrod.

"Some of these groups," the statement declared, "are anti-Semitic; however, all of the religious groups, including all Protestant, Catholic and Jewish—have been pushing the Anti-Segregation issue and it is time for all of us to speak out for separation of the black and white races, regardless of our race or creed."

When representations were made to him on the anti-Semitic character of his recommended reading list Patterson denied that either he or the Councils were anti-Semitic. However, a second list of anti-Semitic material recommended by him was circulating as late as last Spring, though the date the list was issued is not known. It included the publications of such outstanding anti-Semites as Robert H. Williams, Frank Britton, Marilyn Allen and John Hamilton.

The inaugural group's program of action was inspired by an address in the summer of 1954, delivered by Tom P. Brady to the Greenwood Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Brady, a circuit court judge from Brookhaven, Miss., is vice-president of the Mississippi Bar Association. He expanded his speech into a 90-page booklet under the title of "Black Monday." The title refers to May 17, 1954, the day the Supreme Court issued its historic ruling that segregation in the nation's schools is unconstitutional.

The Councils' Idea Man

While Robert B. Patterson is the executive arm of the Councils, Judge Brady seems to be something akin to a spiritual founding father endowed with the gift of prophecy. Brady's brochure has become the Councils' ideological base. They have published it under their imprint and are promoting it even among school youth. Patterson has urged its distribu-

NOT RECORDED

20 JUL 20 1955

FACTS—51

tion among all high school students in the state. He said the purpose of circulating the booklet is to "create an interest in and basic understanding of our great problems to our young people," who must be "armed with facts to withstand the propaganda barrage of radio, television, moving pictures and the Northern press." Patterson said that presenting Brady's work to students is the "cheapest, easiest, most educational program we have heard of. Maybe other Councils would like to consider this or similar methods of nullifying left-wing propaganda."

The Councils are trying to sponsor essay contests built around the work. Last December, the Mississippi High School Activities Association voted to launch such a contest, financed by the Citizens Councils, which agreed to put up \$2500 as cash prizes for the winners of district and state competitions.

Judge Brady appears to be an unreconstructed racist who has grown bilious on a heavy and unvaried diet of white supremacy. His theories of "racial purity" have been drawn from rapid detoured excursions in the fields of anthropology, ethnology and history, particularly such portions of these branches of learning which could be made to conform to his own racist views.

Contrasting the development of white and Negro stocks, he says:

"The purpose of this comparison is not to embarrass or humiliate anyone. You can dress a chimpanzee, housebreak him and teach him to use a knife and fork, but it will take countless generations of evolutionary development, if ever, before you can convince him that a caterpillar or a cockroach is not a delicacy."

This scurrilous comment on Negroes follows Brady's foreword where he states that he "shall strive to proceed" without "denunciation and abuse . . . the favorite weapons of the clumsy, frustrated and uncontrolled."

Largesse

At one point of his work, Judge Brady says:

"Yes, the Dutch, Spanish, English and Yankee slave traders conferred upon a small part of the Negro race the greatest benefit one man ever conferred upon another. And yet slavery is morally wrong, and all nations have had to discover this truth the difficult way.

"The American Negro was divorced from Africa and saved from savagery. In spite of his basic inferiority, he was forced to do that which he would not do for himself. He was compelled to lay aside cannibalism, his barbaric savage customs. He was transported from aboriginal ignorance and superstition. He was given a language. A moral standard of values was presented to him, a standard he could never have created for himself and which he does not now appreciate. His soul was quickened. He was introduced to God! And the men of the South, whether we like it or not, were largely responsible for this miracle."

Brady's concepts of "racial purity" are embodied in this statement of his:

"The loveliest and the purest of God's creatures, the nearest thing to an angelic being that treads this terrestrial ball is a well-bred, cultured Southern white woman or her blue-eyed golden-haired little girl."

Brady on Jews

Brady pays tribute to the "racial purity" of Jews, but some of the best of his Jewish friends seem to be dead ones, like Disraeli, Schiff and Einstein.

"It is lamentable," he says, "that attention should be called to the alarming increase of Jewish names in the ranks of Communist-front organizations of this country. Of all the nations which have ever been on this earth, the United States has been the kindest to the Jew. Here he has suffered but little ostracization—and he has brought most of this upon himself. . . . Above all peoples the Jew should be grateful. Hungry, naked, thirsty and homeless we took him in, and made him one of us. From the Jewish race there should never be any Rosenbergs, Greenglasses or Alger Hisses (*Sic!*). The Socialist and Communist infiltrated labor organizations should not have the Dubinskys, the Emspaks, the Abram Flaxes and Ben Golds as their leaders. The list is long and ominous. The loyal American Jew, on his own volition, should take steps to stop this disloyalty and sometimes outright treason. We know he is embarrassed by and regrets these incidents. . . .

"No race is perfect. . . . There are those today who would damn the Jew, who would like to see him persecuted because he controls the motion picture industry, the clothing industry, the jewelry market, and so on. His excellence in these and other numerous fields of business endeavor is the result of his own inherent intelligence and industry. Of all races his criminal record is the least, but if he is going to bow down and worship the Baal of Socialism and Communism the same fate of persecution which has so often befallen him will overtake him. Because of the mistakes of a few of their leaders, let us not condemn a race. Because Arthur Spingarn is President of the NAACP it does not follow that all Jews approve of this rabid organization.

" . . . Let us remember the loyal American Jew is not responsible for Karl Marx. Let us not forget, even though the Jew does not accept His divinity, that it was from the loins of the Jew, from the seed of Abraham, that the Messiah came. . . .

"Let us not harp on the Hisses and Rosenbergs, but remember the Disraelis, the Guggenheims, the Schiffs, the Strausses, the Einsteins. . . ."

Cold War and Economic Boycott

But it was Judge Brady's ideas on the use of economic pressure which became one of the creative forces in the genesis of the Citizens Councils. Regarding this tactic, he says:

"As a last resort, a step which no Southern man wants to take, is declaring of a cold war and an economic boycott. A large percentage, over a third, of the negro women in the

FACTS

is a monthly report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 212 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Officers: Henry Edward Schultz, chairman; Meier Steinbrink, honorary chairman; Barney Balaban, A. G. Ballenger, A. K. Cohen, Herbert H. Lehman, Leon Lowenstein, Benjamin Samuels and Jesse Steinhart, honorary vice-chairmen; Maurice Dannenbaum, Jefferson E. Peyser and Edmund Waterman, vice-chairmen; Jacob Alson, treasurer; Benjamin R. Epstein, secretary and national director. David A. Rose, chairman of Civil Rights Committee.

Edited by Arnold Forster, Civil Rights Director. Harold Berman, associate editor. Reprint in whole or part is not authorized without permission.

32

South are domestic servants. When this source of revenue is cut off, and they are no longer employed, a deplorable situation will arise for the negro. The negro of the South knows this and so does the NAACP. The NAACP does not care, actually, what happens to the negro of the South financially. Drunk or mad with the successes which it has inspired, it now seeks to carry out its Communist-inspired program, irrespective of what harm it does to the negroes of the South. It will be inconvenient upon the white women of the South to discharge their maids and cooks but this can be done, if necessary.

"Over ninety-five per cent of the negroes of the South are employed by and work for white men or corporations controlled by white men. A great many negro employees will be discharged and, though it will work a grave hardship on many white employers, still it is better 'if our right eye offend us to pluck it out.' This will be the acid test which the white men of the South will have to meet. Our white boys and girls will not have to go to other states in order to obtain employment. Then our population will cease to decrease.

"The negro of the South should be forewarned, and when the next case is brought in in any of the remaining thirteen States the economic boycott should begin. The irony of the African proverb, 'Full belly boy says to empty belly boy, be of good cheer,' should be explained to the Southern negro.

"... This economic boycott will make many negroes in the South destitute, and means should be provided whereby these negroes can be taken care of. A subsidy should be established whereby these negroes can be sent by bus and train to the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and California. . . ."

Brady's Ideas Take Root

These ideas ignited a small nucleus which set their hands to the task of setting up an organization for the purpose of cracking down on Negroes by denying them work, credit and commercial services and by limiting their vote. The first group soon started spreading the gospel of economic boycott. Councils were shortly organized in dozens of Mississippi counties. A few have spilled over into Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana.

The Councils were in a good strategic position to put on the economic squeeze against Negroes and non-conformers. Their membership was drawn from the ranks of the most respected and influential community leaders. They included politicians, bankers, druggists, merchants, lawyers, other professionals, and newspaper men.

Dr. Emmet J. Stringer, a dentist from Columbus, Miss., and state president of the NAACP, gave this description of their methods.

"We had a branch president, a merchant, who had to give up. A group of white men drove up to his store and told him to get in the car. He did and they took him to his bank and there were the banker, his wholesaler and other people who gave him credit. They told him they would give him no more . . . he had to give up, go bankrupt or get out."

Dr. Stringer said he had reports that in one area the public utility services of any Negro leader falling behind even one day in the payment of his bills were cut off abruptly.

"As for me," Stringer said, "I can't get credit anywhere in Mississippi, and I'm just getting started too."

Council members in Indianola warned patients of a Negro

physician, Dr. Clinton Battle, that they were risking the loss of their jobs if they consulted him any more. Dr. Battle was the first Negro in the county to register and vote and had been urging other Negroes to do likewise. At the last election, not a single Negro in the county, including Dr. Battle, showed up at the polls.

In the town of Belzoni, Council members intimidated a Negro undertaker, T. V. Johnson, after learning that he was a member of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a group which supported desegregation. They warned him not to accept the chairmanship of the local Negro Boy Scouts, that he would get no credit if he did, and might even be run out of town. The Negro undertaker submitted and did as he was told.

Many, however, both white and non-white, have stood their ground before Council harassment. And Negroes began to organize economic counteraction. According to Roy Wilkins, NAACP leader, about a quarter of a million dollars has been placed on deposit with the Negro-owned Tri-State Bank in Memphis to enable the bank to expand its credit resources for Negroes facing economic boycott or threatened with mortgage foreclosures. The bank's lending power is based on the amount of its deposits. Negro lodges, churches, fraternities, insurance companies, loan associations and various individuals joined in depositing the funds. They are seeking to increase the deposits by another \$250,000.

Wilkins said the wholesale dismissals of Negroes from jobs "would upset the economy of Mississippi, especially on the retail level." He pointed out that the Negro purchasing power was important to merchants, since about half of the state's population and much of its labor force were Negro. He emphasized that it was more difficult to cope with the new registration techniques to bar Negroes from voting.

Since inception, the Citizens Councils have found one of their staunchest critics in Hodding Carter, Pulitzer Prize winner and editor-publisher of Mississippi's Greenville Delta Democrat-Times. He has given them no quarter in his relentless exposure of their operations. Last April, he ran a front-page editorial declaring that he had "evidence" that the Councils were engaging in "economic terrorism" directed at advertisers.

"We are not talking about one or two incidents," Carter said. "This is a planned campaign entered upon by men whose behavior in this regard makes them blood-brothers of the Capone mob."

"Merchants, professional men and distributors have been approached. Some have already felt the lash.

"These 'protection sellers' make no bones about it. In some cases, they tell their targets that unless they organize or join the Councils, they'll get no more business from Council members."

In May, Carter was interrupted while addressing a forum at a Memphis YWCA by the arrival of a fire engine, squad cars, a Navy Shore Patrol wagon and two ambulances. They were all hurried to the scene by false alarms. A series of telephone calls falsely reported a fire in the building, an accident, a shooting, a murder and a riot.

"It's clear," said a YWCA official, "that some people had it in for Carter and just wanted to make trouble."

Some weeks earlier Carter had engaged in a brisk exchange with the Mississippi House of Representatives. The House passed a resolution denouncing him for writing an article for Look magazine attacking the Citizens Councils.

Some legislators called him a "scalawag" or abusive names during the course of a bitter floor fight. Carter returned the fire in a sharply worded editorial. He wrote:

"The House of Representatives has resolved me into a liar because of an article I wrote. . . . If this charge were true, it would make me well qualified to serve with that body. It is not true.

"So to even things up, I herewith resolve by a vote of 1-0 that there are 89 liars in the state legislature beginning with Speaker (Walter) Sillers and working way down to Representative Eck Windham of Prentiss." (Windham had charged that Carter sold out the state of Mississippi to "that filthy magazine for 50,000 pieces of silver.")

Carter's editorial added that "those 89 character mobbers can go to hell collectively or singly, and wait there until I back down. They needn't plan on returning."

The Alabama Councils

Citizens Councils have been formed in about five counties in Alabama. One was organized on the spot at a mass meeting in Linden, after an inflammatory address by State Senator Walter C. Givham.

He said the real purpose of the campaign to end segregation was "to open the bedroom doors of our white women to Negro men." If the campaign is successful, Givham declared, the Negroes will see to it that the nation gets a Negro vice-president, "and after that happens, what would prevent them from assassinating the President and making the Negro president?"

"You say it can't happen here," the Senator shouted, "but I say it can and will unless we stand up and fight." The crowd there and then agreed to organize a Citizens Council.

The Councils in Alabama have not had a good press. The Montgomery Advertiser, a newspaper favoring segregation, has severely criticized them, calling the groups "manicured Ku Klux Klans." Newspapers in Birmingham have also expressed misgivings about the Councils.

One Council has recently cropped up in Louisiana. A secret group known as the "Southern Gentlemen" has been set up, in affiliation with the Mississippi organization. Its chairman, J. B. Easterly of Baton Rouge, said his outfit is non-political and non-sectarian, but "we'll fight the hell out of any public officials who are for desegregation."

Looking to the Future

According to Hodding Carter, a close on-the-scene observer, the Councils have not fared as well as they had hoped and are running into opposition. Addressing a journalistic fraternity group in St. Louis last May, he said that most of the Council members are planters past fifty, while their strongest opposition has come from young Southerners who will not bind themselves to the perpetuation of the old social order. Noting that younger clergymen, many teachers and the press have spoken out against the Councils, Carter stressed that the South is going through an era "of change and challenge."

Writing in Look magazine this month (June 28, 1955), he said that he had gotten some two thousand letters after his

previous Look piece attacking the Councils. He said that they ran 3 to 2 in his favor in the South and better elsewhere. What heartened him was the preponderance of the favorable letters from young people and clergymen of all faiths. And he underlined the significance of the fact that the critical letters "were overwhelmingly emotional, often anti-Semitic, and, when unsigned as many were, contained filthy personal attacks and threats."

Carter is confident of the people of the South, who "know that inflammatory political behavior and the formation of vigilante groups aren't the answer any more than would be a Supreme Court edict ordering complete integration next fall. There must be a middle ground."

A gradual adjustment in the South, says Carter, "will be aided by accompanying improvement in the Negro's economic status; by Negro migration which will reduce the pressure of numbers; by the tolerance of those who today are young."

Against these forces, he adds, "the South's braying demagogues, its Klans and Councils and Southern Gentlemen, Inc., cannot forever stand."

The United States Supreme Court, in its edicts against segregation, has demonstrated a grasp of the local situations in the South which is heartening. It has lighted the path which the South can take as a bridge to the realities of the future. As the New York Times has observed:

"The Court apparently will yield in non-essentials. It will permit unavoidable postponements, but it will not tolerate deliberate efforts to circumvent the Constitution.

"The ruling is perhaps not wholly satisfactory to anybody. Desegregation will move too slowly for some among us, perhaps too rapidly for others. There may be an interval of confusion during which a considerable number of cases will be carried up to the Supreme Court. Nevertheless we are on the way toward a more perfect democracy. The error of a static and ineffective edict has been avoided."

The "interval of confusion" described by the New York Times may, however, open the way to an increasingly tense situation in the deep South. That interval, or one subsequent, may bring to a head the crucial problem of enforcing school desegregation. Only then, when the issue of enforcement is joined, will the shape of future events be crystalized.

Until now the South has had a breathing spell, which may or may not continue for some time. The Citizens Councils made rapid gains during the first six months after the Supreme Court, on May 17, 1954, ruled against segregated schools. But thereafter the Council movement fell off and did not keep pace with the hopes of the Council leadership. This was primarily due to the fact that the South's state legislatures and state elected officials had pledged an undying fight against the Supreme Court mandate. This legal bulwark dampened any feelings to join non-official organizations. If and when this first line of legal defense is overridden by the United States Supreme Court, the Councils will most likely find their ranks strengthened by other organized groups and unaffiliated white Southerners sympathetic to the Councils' objectives. As a last resort, it is not improbable that the Council members will adopt Klan-like methods. The possible rising up of such a period of duress, according to all precedents, is cause for apprehension among all minority elements in the deep South.

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/26/55

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-539)

JACKSON STATES' RIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reference is made to the above captioned case which has been under investigation by this office.

Information has been received that captioned group has experienced some difficulty in getting organized and has changed the name of the group to the Jackson Citizens' Council and is now affiliated with the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi.

Accordingly, the file in the above case is being consolidated with the file pertaining to the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi.

LJF:js
(4)

1 cc: NO 105-492

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/29/10 BY 60267 AL SEP/24

918421

NOT RECORDED

163

AUG 5 1955

ORIGINAL FILED IN 105-539

FD-72
(3-9-54)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW ORLEANS

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS	DATE WHEN MADE 7/28/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/24; 7/8, 19/55	REPORT MADE BY LJF:js LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. (A)
TITLE 0 ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Executive Secretary of Citizens' Councils quoted as saying there are 253 chapters composed of approximately fifty to sixty thousand white males "dedicated to peaceful law enforcement." Reportedly women have been invited to become members if interested in maintaining segregation. Newspaper article disclosed Jackson State's Rights Association, Inc. has changed name to Jackson Citizens' Council. Reportedly Jackson chapter having considerable difficulty getting organized. Members of the Executive Committee of "Federation for Constitutional Government" set out.

AGENCY *R. P. 4, C-2, ONE, OSI*
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. *8-12-55*
HOW FORW. *RIS*
BY *CFW-22*

DETAILS AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

An article appearing in the Jackson Daily News, Jackson, Mississippi, on June 10, 1955, quoted spokesmen of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi at Canton, Mississippi, as stating that they were dedicated to keeping segregation in all walks of Mississippi life and as denying that the councils were "anti-Negro, anti-race, anti creed or anti-anybody." The spokesmen stated that "on the contrary," according to the article, "we are organized to maintain segregation by peaceful and legal means and to use

*0-17 to N.O.
Submit copies
of this & similar
organizations
8-16-55 CFW-22*

*0-1 to New Orleans
9-23-55. Suspended,
invest, effw, sm*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *3/29/97* BY *60444*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>MPG</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau (105-34237) 1-Birmingham (Info.) 1-Charlotte (Info.) 1-Knoxville (Info.) 1-Little Rock (Info.) (copies cont'd next page)		705-137237-25 21 AUG 2 1955	RECORDED - 1 INDEXED - 1 EX-107

PROPERTY OF FBI—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

71 AUG 16 1955

NO 105-492

Copies Cont'd:

2-Memphis (105-121)
1-Miami (Info.)
1-Mobile (Info.)
1-Norfolk (Info.)
1-Savannah (Info.)
2-New Orleans (105-492)

Details Cont'd:

every legal resource to resist attempts at breaking down Mississippi's traditional way of life since reconstruction days."

The article quoted ROBERT PATTERSON of Winona, Mississippi, Executive Secretary, as stating that there were 253 chapters and between fifty and sixty thousand white males who have been organized and "dedicated to peaceful law enforcement." The article quoted him as saying "We are a counter group to the NAACP."

The article also quoted Mr. BILL SIMMONS of Jackson, Mississippi, Administrator of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, as saying that the reason for the councils' existence was to oppose integration and "We hope to mobilize public sentiment against integration." He was quoted as saying "The Mississippi way of life which we have lived under because our society is based on segregation, was threatened to attack by men who are trained revolutionaries. We banded together for protection." The article stated that he did not identify the revolutionaries.

PATTERSON was quoted as stating that another reason for the councils was "to have some organization to withstand the NAACP and other powerful pressure groups which work upon courts and politicians." He said that he believed the Supreme Court decision was wrong, and that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which he said had "pressured" for such a ruling would meet

NO 105-492

resistance "proportionate to the NAACP's pressure."

In an article appearing in the "Clarion-Ledger," Jackson, Mississippi, on June 6, 1955, the women of Jackson were invited to become members of the Jackson Citizens' Council if they were interested in maintaining segregation among the races.

This article quoted W. J. ~~JIMMONS~~ ^{MISS}, Secretary of the Jackson Citizens' Council, as saying that the local board of the Jackson group had voted to admit women to membership following a strong expression of interest by women of the capital city in the objectives of the council and their realization of the seriousness of efforts of outside forces to break down segregation in the Southland.

In an article appearing in the Clarion-Ledger, Jackson, Mississippi, on May 8, 1955, it was disclosed that the Jackson State's Rights Association had changed its name to the Jackson Citizens' Council in accordance with recommendation of the Board of Directors. The article stated that ROBERT JONES, Jackson Attorney and member of the Board of Directors and of the Legal Committee of the organization, presented the resolution. He stated that after careful consideration, the character of leadership and the general policies of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, it was unanimously recommended that the Jackson State's Rights Association become the Jackson Citizens' Council.

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 24, 1955, that the Jackson State's Rights group was having considerable difficulty in getting organized, and that the members were not in complete agreement and did not seem to be getting anywhere.

By communication dated June 25, 1955.

Port Gibson,

NO 105-492

Mississippi, furnished a letter on the stationery of the "Federation for Constitutional Government" dated June 7, 1955, and signed by JOHN U. BARR. The letterhead disclosed the members of the Interim Executive Committee as follows:

JOHN U. BARR, Chairman, New Orleans, La.
ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Vice-Chairman,
Winona, Miss.
Hon. WALTER C. GIVHAN, Safford, Ala.
Hon. JOE C. JENKINS, Gainesville, Fla.
Hon. HUGH G. GRANT, Augusta, Ga.
W. M. SHAW, Homer, La.
J. A. STUBBS, Sumter, S. C.
L. V. DUBOSE, Nashville, Tenn.
Hon. R. A. STUART, Fort Worth, Texas.
R. B. CRAWFORD, Farmville, Va.

The members of the Legal Committee are listed as follows:

Hon. TOM P. BRADY, Brookhaven, Miss.
Hon. LEANDER H. PEREZ, New Orleans, La.
Hon W. SCOTT WILKINSON, Shreveport, La.

The letter is quoted as follows:

"During January of 1955, a group of representatives from the eleven Deep South States assembled in Jackson, Mississippi, to organize and authorize an Interim Executive and Legal Committee to create a permanent organization to be known as 'FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.'

"A copy of their Resolution is attached.

"By authority of this Resolution, the Interim Executive Committee is proceeding to set up a permanent organization and prepare the program for future activity.

NO 105-492

"The Legal Committee has prepared a proposed Charter and By-Laws, which the Interim Executive Committee will submit to the next general meeting.

"We submit this because we have reason to believe that you are vitally interested.

"Courageous political leaders at all levels, national, state and city must have organized support. If we fail them, they face defeat or discouragement.

"If our Republic is to be preserved, there must be co-ordinated effort on the part of each and every individual dedicated toward its preservation.

"An expression of your interest will be appreciated.

"

Sincerely,

"/s/

JOHN U. BARR, Chairman
Interim Executive Committee "

The resolution referred to is as follows:

"Be it resolved that a National Committee, to be named Federation for Constitutional Government, be organized, consisting of two representatives or delegates from each participating state, for the purpose of coordinating and assisting the efforts of citizens of the several states in securing a return of constitutional government to the people of the United States.

"The major objectives of the National Committee shall be to promote constitutional government, including the preservation of the independence of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments; the preservation of the sovereign rights of the several states, and the preservation of individual liberties, all of which are guaranteed by the Federal Constitution; to

NO 105-492

secure the nomination of candidates for office who subscribe to these principles; to resist the nomination of leftist candidates for President and Vice President and other offices, and oppose the adoption of Socialistic platforms; to seek in every honorable and legitimate way to prohibit the practice and to counteract the effects and consequences of executive agreements or orders, and of decisions of the Federal Courts and the United States Supreme Court which have wrongfully abrogated, modified, or amended the provisions of the United States Constitution which require a separation of powers between the three great departments of government, and of the Tenth Amendment which reserved to the States and the people all power not expressly granted by the Constitution to the Federal Government.

"The said Committee is hereby authorized to adopt its own rules of procedure and to do all things, which it may in its discretion deem necessary to carry out the objectives outlined above.

"The said Committee shall elect officers and select an Executive Committee and prescribe its powers and duties. The National Committee may set up State organizations, sub-committees or special committees, or work through or in cooperation with existing organizations that are in accord with the principles and the objectives set forth hereinabove.

"Be it further resolved that a Provisional Committee, consisting of two representatives of each state represented at this meeting today, be formed to promote and carry into effect the purposes of this Resolution until such time as each state organization, which it may approve, can select its two state representatives or delegates to serve on the National Committee. "

NO 105-492

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on July 8, 1955, that he had received no information on the activities of the Association of Citizens' Councils in Jackson. He stated that the activities of this group had been relatively quiet and so far as he knew they were not having any meetings. He claimed that the name of this group was changed recently from the Jackson State's Rights Association to the Citizens' Council of Jackson, Mississippi.

P.

NO 105-492

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Copies of this report are being furnished to the Birmingham, Charlotte, Knoxville, Little Rock, Miami, Mobile, Norfolk, and Savannah Divisions for information in view of the potential investigation that may develop in those districts concerning this association or related organizations.

INFORMANTS

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activities and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-1: [redacted]	Current activities	5/24/54	SA [redacted]	105-492-41

T-2: [redacted]	"	7/8/54	SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.	105-492
--------------------	---	--------	---------------------------	---------

Jackson, Miss.
(request)

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

LEADS

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will follow and report activities of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi in the Northern District of Mississippi.

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Will follow and report the activities of the

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

NO 105-492

Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi in the
Southern Judicial District of Mississippi.

REFERENCE

Report of SA LAURENCE J. FRANK, May 9, 1955,
New Orleans.
Report of SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, May 23, 1955,
Memphis.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/29/05 BY 60367MLSEP/HH
918421

105-34237-26

CHANGED TO

105-40192-1

AUG 31 1955

JS

C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/01 BY 60247 NLSE P/LM
* 915421

105-34237-27
CHANGED TO
105-40391-1

SEP 12 1955

E

C

b6
b7c

Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: August 30, 1955

FROM : SAC, LOUISVILLE (105-177)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
(OF MISSISSIPPI), aka: The Citizens
Councils of Mississippi
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

OO: NEW ORLEANS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/01 BY 60247MS
918421 EP/LAN

On August 23, 1955, [redacted]
[redacted] a Negro woman, appeared at the Louisville Office
and furnished the following information to Special Agent
[redacted]

She had just returned from Detroit, Michigan, where the
Fifty-fourth Annual Session, Imperial Council-~~AEAONMS~~
and the Fifty-fourth Annual Session of the Imperial Court,
Daughters of Isis, was held on August 14-19, 1955.

[redacted] attended this convention at which she stated
about 6,000 people were present from all over the United
States.

At a meeting of the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis,
at which approximately 2,000 women were present, Mrs.
ELIZA M. COLEMAN, Imperial High Priestess and Deputy-desert
of Mississippi, from Jackson, Mississippi, made a talk.
Mrs. COLEMAN stated that the Citizens Council in Jackson,
Mississippi is harrassing the Negro people to such an
extent that the Negroes fear for their lives. She said
that they are afraid to sit near a lighted window in
their own home at night and that they did not dare to enter
the office of any Federal Agency such as the FBI to make
a complaint for fear that they would be arrested before
they could reach the office. She stated that in a recent
election that the Negro people in Natchez, Mississippi,
are not allowed to vote and that the roads leading out
of Natchez were blocked by white people to prevent the
Negroes in Natchez from going to some other location to
vote. Mrs. COLEMAN encouraged the people present to go
back to their homes and complain to the FBI and other
Federal Government Agencies concerning the mistreatment
of the Negro people in Mississippi by the Citizens Councils
in an effort to obtain protection from the Federal Government.

WLH:dbw
(7)

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-27
INDEXED-27

2 - New Orleans (105-492)

2 - Memphis

cc -

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

September 16, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
(OF MISSISSIPPI)
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI File 105-34237-28
RECORDED - 115

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/11/81 BY 60321/MSK

918421

BOLLAN

On August 23, 1955, [redacted]

[redacted] Louisville, Kentucky,
advised the Louisville Office of this Bureau of
the following information.

She advised she had just returned from
Detroit, Michigan where the Fifty-fourth Annual
Session, Imperial Council ALACONS and the Fifty-
fourth Annual Session of the Imperial Court,
Daughters of Isis, were held on August 14-19, 1955.
[redacted] attended this convention at which she stated
about 6,000 people were present from all over the
United States.

At a meeting of the Imperial Court, Daughters
of Isis, at which approximately 2,000 women were present,
Mrs. Eliza M. Coleman, Imperial High Priestess and
Deputy-desert of Mississippi, from Jackson, Mississippi,
made a talk. Mrs. Coleman stated that the Citizens
Council in Jackson, Mississippi, is harassing the Negro
people to such an extent that the Negroes fear for their
lives. She said that they were afraid to sit near a lighted
window in their own homes at night and they did not
dare to enter the office of any Federal agency such as
the FBI to make a complaint for fear that they would be
arrested before they could reach the office. She stated
that in a recent election the Negro people in Natchez,
Mississippi, were not allowed to vote and that the roads
leading out of Natchez were blocked by white people to
prevent the Negroes in Natchez from going to some other
location to vote. Mrs. Coleman encouraged the people
present to go back to their homes and complain to the
FBI and other Federal Government agencies concerning the
mistreatment of the Negro people in Mississippi by the
Citizens Councils in an effort to obtain protection from
the Federal Government.

MAILED 6

16 1955

COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CFW:ojk:sad

See Note on Yellow, page 2.

64 SEP 21 1955

Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

The files of this Bureau contain no
information relative to the Imperial Council REAGERS
or the Daughters of Isis.

The above is being furnished you for your
information. Any additional pertinent data received
relative to this matter will be furnished you promptly.

2cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

NOTE ON YELLOW:

We are conducting an investigation of the
captioned organization in connection with Executive
Order 10450. The Department has been furnished reports
in this matter.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/07 BY 60267 NLS EP/LSN
#919421

105-34237-29
CHANGED TO
105-34850-13

SEP 19 1955

Rh

C



Distributed by Association of Citizens' Councils, Winona, Miss. \$3.00 per 100 Copies.

SEP 13 1955

KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED
ANONYMOUS COMMENTS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/16/01 BY 60267 NLS/KR/LSS

918 421

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60267 MSER/KWJ

918421

105-34237-31

CHANGED TO

105-34850-15.

OCT 4 1955

J. M.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LOngacre 3-6890

Please direct reply to:

WASHINGTON BUREAU NAACP

100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.

Washington, D. C.

Telephone National 8-5794

CCA-1

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/01 BY 60347ML/SP/LH

September 12, 1955

918421

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

In connection with this organization's investigation of the White Citizens Councils in Mississippi, this office has received an unconfirmed report on William J. Simmons, one of the organizers of the councils.

We are advised that Mr. Simmons was discharged from the Navy as a security risk because of his association with Nazi groups in Europe. His period of naval service was from June 2 1942 to August 15, 1942. His serial number was 6445261.

Mr. Simmons resides at 734 Fairview Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

Sincerely yours,

J. Francis Pohlhaus

J. Francis Pohlhaus
Counsel
Washington Bureau

JFP:mb

31.
EXP. PROC.
SEP 13 1955

6/8/8
42
add info
sec-100 (cc)
Wash
let one
9-16-55
Wash

RECORDED - 22

INDEXED - 22

105-34237-32

17 SEP 13 1955

EX-113

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President
Arthur B. Spingarn

Chairman of the Board
Dr. Channing H. Tobias

Vice-Chairman of the Board
Dr. Robert C. Weaver

Vice-Presidents

Mary McLeod Bethune
Rabbi Judah Cahn
Hon. Harry E. Davis
Grace B. Fenderson
Oscar Hammerstein, II
John Hammond
Prof. C. L. Harper
Dr. John Haynes Holmes
Dr. William Lloyd Imes
Dr. Allen F. Jackson
Hon. Ira W. Jayne
Eric Johnston
Eugene M. Martin
Dr. O. Clay Maxwell
L. Pearl Mitchell
Hon. Wayne Morse
T. G. Nutter
A. Philip Randolph
Ike Smalls
Willard S. Townsend
Bishop W. J. Walls
Samuel Williams

Treasurer
Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers
Assistant Treasurer
Hon. Theodore Spaulding

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Walter White **Executive Secretary**
Roy Wilkins **Administrator**
Thurgood Marshall **Special Counsel**
Henry Lee Moon
Director, Public Relations
Gloster B. Current **Director, Branches**
Edward R. Dudley **Special Assistant**
Robert L. Carter
Assistant Special Counsel
Lucilla Black **Membership Secretary**
Ruby Hurley
Southeastern Regional Secretary
Donald Jones **Regional Secretary**
Lester P. Bailley
Mildred Bond
Bernard Brown
John W. Hamer
Gertrude Gorman
Field Secretaries
Franklin H. Williams
West Coast Regional Sec'y-Counsel
Herbert L. Wright **Youth Secretary**
Clarence Mitchell
Director, Washington Bureau
Harbert Hill
Labor Relations Assistant
Walter P. Offutt, Jr.
Church Secretary
James W. Ivy
Editor, The Crisis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Atlanta, Ga.
Baltimore, Md.
Baton Rouge, La.
Boston, Mass.
Cambridge, Mass.
Camden, N. J.
Charlotte, N. C.
Chicago, Ill.
Cincinnati, Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio
Columbia, S. C.
Dallas, Texas
Detroit, Mich.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
Lillie M. Jackson
Carl Murphy
John G. Lewis, Jr.
Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers
Kivie Kaplan
Walter Carrington
Dr. Ulysses Wiggins
Kelly M. Alexander
Earl B. Dickerson
Hon. Theodore M. Berry
Dr. Nathan K. Christopher
A. J. Smith
Dr. James J. McLaughlin
Walter R. Routh

Flint, Mich.
Fort Worth, Texas
Greenwich, Conn.
Hyde Park, N. Y.
Kansas City, Mo.
Kew Gardens, N. Y.
Los Angeles, Calif.
Nashville, Tenn.
New York, N. Y.
Dr. J. Leonidas Leach
Dr. George D. Flammings
Alfred Baker Lewis
Eleanor Roosevelt
Carl R. Johnson
Dr. Ralph J. Bunche
Dr. H. Claude Hudson
Z. Alexander Looby
Lillian A. Alexander
Dr. Algernon D. Black
Norman Cousins
Hon. Hubert T. Delany
Dr. Buell Gallagher
Lewis S. Gannett
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Amy E. Spingarn

Oak Bluffs, Mass.
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Richmond, Va.
Savannah, Ga.
Tuskegee, Ala.
Washington, D. C.

Arthur B. Spingarn
Dr. Channing H. Tobias
Dr. Robert C. Weaver
Andrew D. Weinberger
Dr. S. Ralph Harlow
Roscoe Dunjee
Dr. Harry J. Greene
Earl G. Harrison
Hon. William H. Hastie
Hon. Theodore Spaulding
Daisy E. Lampkin
Jessie M. Vann
Dr. J. M. Tinsley
Westley W. Law
Dr. Joseph A. Berry
Dr. W. Montague Cobb

NATIONAL LEGAL COMMITTEE

Lloyd Garrison, New York, N. Y., Chairman

Atlanta, Ga.
Birmingham, Ala.
Boston, Mass.
Cambridge, Mass.
Charleston, W. Va.
Chicago, Ill.
Cincinnati, Ohio
Dallas, Texas
Erie, Pa.
Houston, Texas
Ithaca, N. Y.
Kansas City, Mo.

A. T. Walden
Arthur D. Shreve
Herbert E. Tucker, Jr.
Benjamin Kaplan
T. G. Nutter
Earl B. Dickerson
Sidney A. Jones, Jr.
W. Robert Ming, Jr.
Loring B. Moore
Theodore M. Berry
W. J. Durham
William F. Hlig
Arthur J. Mendell
Milton R. Konvitz
Carl R. Johnson

Los Angeles, Calif.
Nashville, Tenn.
New Orleans, La.
New York, N. Y.
Robert W. Kenny
Loren Miller
Z. Alexander Looby
A. P. Tureaud
Harry Bragg
Bartley Crum
Joseph Dyer
Morris L. Ernst
Arthur Garfield Hays
Osmond K. Fraenkel
Paul Kern
Karl N. Llewellyn
James Marshall
Shad Poller
Louis Pollak
Samuel I. Rosenman

New York, N. Y.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Richmond, Va.
St. Louis, Mo.
Tulsa, Okla.
Washington, D. C.
Wilmington, Del.
Jawn Sandifer
Andrew D. Weinberger
Herman Zand
William Coleman
Oliver W. Hill
Spottswood W. Robinson, III
Sidney R. Redmond
Amos T. Hall
George E. C. Hayes
George M. Johnson
Edward P. Lovett
James M. Nabrit
Leon A. Ransom
Frank D. Reeves
Ruth Wyand
Louis L. Redding

NATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Dr. W. Montague Cobb, Washington, D. C., Chairman

Albany, N. Y.
Boston, Mass.
Camden, N. J.
Chicago, Ill.
Cleveland, Ohio
Detroit, Mich.
Evanston, Ill.
Flint, Mich.
Hartford, Conn.
High Point, N. C.
Kansas City, Kan.
Los Angeles, Calif.
Louisville, Ky.
New Haven, Conn.
Natchez, Miss.
New York, N. Y.

Dr. Joseph B. Robinson
Dr. Edward L. Young
Dr. Ulysses Wiggins
Dr. A. W. Mercer
Dr. Nathan Christopher
Dr. James J. McLaughlin
Dr. J. Edmund Bryant
Dr. J. Leonidas Leach
Dr. Allan F. Jackson
Dr. Murray B. Davis
Dr. A. Porter Davis
Dr. Emory I. Robinson
Dr. J. A. C. Lattimore
Dr. John P. Peters
Dr. A. M. Mackel
Dr. Ernest R. Alexander
Dr. Viola W. Bernard
Dr. Russell L. Cecil
Dr. Harold I. Ell

Opalouses, La.
Philadelphia, Pa.
Richmond, Va.
Roanoke, Va.
San Antonio, Texas
Thomasville, Ga.
Tulsa, Okla.
Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ernest P. Boas
Dr. Henry C. Falk
Dr. Myra Logan
Judge Myles A. Paige
Dr. C. B. Powell
Dr. Theodore M. Sander
Dr. Robert S. Wilkinson
Dr. A. C. Terrance
Dr. Harry J. Greene
Dr. J. M. Tinsley
Dr. Harry T. Penn
Dr. C. Austin Whittier
Dr. Martin Luther Walton
Dr. R. C. Bryant
Dr. Millard Day
Dr. Joseph G. Gathings
Dr. C. Herbert Marshall
Dr. Edward C. Mazique

CC

clerk

b6
b7c

September 16, 1955

RECORDED - 22

INDEXED - 22

Mr. J. Francis Pohlhaus
Counsel
Washington Bureau
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People
100 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60247WLS
916421 SP/LSH

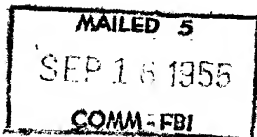
Dear Mr. Pohlhaus:

Your letter dated September 12, 1955, has
been received.

In view of the contents, I am taking the
liberty of forwarding copies thereof to the
intelligence agency of the United States Navy.

Your interest in communicating with me
is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



John Edgar Hoover
Director

2cc - New Orleans (with copy of incoming)
Memphis " " "

SAC'S, NEW ORLEANS AND MEMPHIS:

For the information of offices receiving copies
of this communication, copies of the incoming letter are
being forwarded to ONL with the request that the Bureau be
informed if their files contain any data which would tend

(See page 2)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

WWK:fmb
(8)

58 SEP 23 1955

to substantiate the allegation set forth in the incoming. Upon receipt of reply, New Orleans and Memphis will be advised accordingly.

William J. Simmons appears to be identical with subject of New Orleans file 100-5208 which investigation was discontinued when subject enlisted in U. S. Navy on June 5, 1942.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Bufiles reflect correspondent has previously communication with Bureau in connection with National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) matters. He has been employed as local counsel for the Washington Bureau of NAACP since 8-30-54, and prior thereto was attorney in the Civil Rights Section, Department of Justice. (105-18867-104)

① Association of Citizen's Councils of Mississippi (identical with organization referred to in incoming) is subject of current Internal Security - X investigation which was suggested by the Department in connection with provisions of Executive Order 10450. The organization has as its aims the maintenance of segregation in public schools and prevention of negroes from voting. William J. Simmons is referred to in this file as the administrator of the Association of Citizen's Councils of Mississippi. (105-34327)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

DATE:

11/21/59

CEW
FROM
HEK:

SAC, ATLANTA (105-309)

SUBJECT:

CITIZENS COUNCIL
RM

Remylet 10/21/59.

No information has come to the attention of this office concerning activity on the part of the States Rights Council of Georgia, Inc., since relet.

The Bureau will be kept advised.

(3) - Bureau (1-105-37158) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (1-105-321)
HEK/cjb
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/10/01 BY 60249 JBL/LM

4918421

REC-50

105-34237-2-32

EX-133

16 NOV 23 1959

18
DEC 1 1959
F17

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-37158

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/10/01 BY 42247NLS EP/LM

918421

Date: September 16, 1955

To: Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ^(b) ASSOCIATION OF CITIZEN'S COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
⁽²⁾ INTERNAL SECURITY - X

For your information, there are enclosed two copies of a communication dated September 12, 1955, received by this Bureau from Mr. J. Francis Pohlhaus, Counsel, Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the contents of which are self-explanatory.

The receipt of the attachment has been acknowledged, and the correspondent has been informed of this referral.

MAILED 6

16 SEP 1955

COMM-FBI

Reports concerning the captioned organization have been disseminated to your Agency in the past.

In connection with William J. Simmons, an examination of our files reflects that, on the basis of available data appearing in the attachment, this individual appears to be identical with one William James Simmons who was the subject of investigation in this Bureau in 1942. Copies of two reports, specifically the report of Special Agent E. F. Coyle at New Orleans dated May 13, 1942, and the report of Special Agent [redacted] at Jackson, Mississippi, dated June 24, 1942, were disseminated to your Agency under date of July 27, 1942.

It is requested that this Bureau be informed if the files of your Agency contain any data which would tend to substantiate the allegation set forth in the attachment.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

WWK:fmb
(5)

(See page 2 for note on yellow)

27 SEP 22 1955

88 SEP 27 1955

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Simmons investigated under caption IS-G in 1942. Inquiry revealed Simmons formerly treated as psychopathic case and at that time was disgruntled at governments of U. S. and Britian for their failure to realize his ability as a potential intelligence officer. Investigation discontinued when subject enlisted in U.S. Navy 6-5-42. (100-104605)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/0 BY 60367NLS2P/L5H
918421

105-34237-34
CHANGED TO
105-34850-16

OCT 4 1955 ³⁶⁶

J. m.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: September 20, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/01 BY 60322NLS/SLH
#918421Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
 Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Bufile 105-34237

Letter dated 9-15-55 from Robert B. Patterson, Secretary Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi (ACCM), Winona, Mississippi, addressed to the Director with copies designated for the President and Attorney General expresses respect for the FBI and offers complete cooperation. The letter states that files and meetings of the ACCM will be open to the FBI until such time as Southern people suspect the FBI is involved in politics or favors the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It adds that the press is leading people to believe that the NAACP, through the Attorney General, is using the FBI to intimidate Southerners who will not submit to integration. It criticizes the Attorney General for reportedly saying that integration has worked out well in Hoxie, Arkansas, and at about the same time saying the FBI will investigate the turmoil and confusion resulting from attempts at integration in Hoxie.

Bufiles reflect that in December, 1953, correspondent forwarded by letter to the Director anti-integration literature. His letter was acknowledged under the signature of Miss Gandy. A similar letter was received from him in January, 1954, and no acknowledgment was afforded it in view of its contents. In January, 1955, a letter was received from him stating that the NAACP was attempting to stir up the Negroes. In accordance with my memorandum dated 1-10-55, no acknowledgment was given his letter and Memphis Office advised. On 3-28-55 he contacted our Agent at Winona, Mississippi, and furnished the Agent names of the State Executive Committee of the ACCM and a copy of its constitution.

The ACCM and its affiliated organizations are subjects of a security investigation. Investigation has disclosed that these organizations for the most part are made up of prominent citizens who are opposed to the use of any force and violence in

Attachments

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Baumgardner

Mr. Rozamus

RECORDED - 65

49

1 SEP 27 1955

INDEXED - 65

MJR:fmb
(6)

Memorandum to Mr. Boardman

their actions against integration. By memorandum dated 9-1-55 the Criminal Division instructed that certain inquiries be made in the Hoxie area concerning alleged campaign by an affiliate of the ACCM to force the school board in Hoxie to re-establish segregation in schools. Little Rock Office was instructed by Buairtel dated 9-3-55 to conduct interviews and inform persons interviewed that investigation being done at specific request of the Attorney General. Little Rock airtel dated 9-16-55 reports completion of investigation and that report in process of dictation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) A letter has been prepared to Memphis Office to have an experienced and mature Agent contact correspondent and orally acknowledge receipt of his letter by the Director. At the time of the contact the Agent is to clearly point out to correspondent that investigations are conducted by the FBI for the sole purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as defined by Congressional enactments, Executive Orders and Departmental instructions.

✓

OK H.

(2) A memorandum has been prepared to AAG Tompkins with copies to AAG Olney advising them of Bureau's receipt of correspondent's letter and that the letter is being orally acknowledged. Furthermore, that the Agent contacting the correspondent is being instructed to clearly point out to correspondent that investigations are conducted by the FBI for the sole purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as defined by Congressional enactments, Executive Orders and Departmental instructions.

OK H. ✓

Em

W. Ben

John

4773

OK

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *fw*

DATE: 9/26/55

FROM : F. L. Price *Not*ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/6/01 BY 40842NLS

916421 EPH/4m

SUBJECT: WHITE AMERICA, INCORPORATED,
SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
HOXIE, ARKANSAS,
CIVIL RIGHTS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Tolson	
Boardman	
Belmont	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Sizoo	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

This is to advise you that a report reflecting results of investigation by the Little Rock Office in instant matter has been received and to furnish copies of the report to Assistant Attorney General Olney and Tompkins in accordance with their memorandum of 9/1/55, (received 9/2/55).

This matter involves the alleged action of White America, Incorporated, Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi, and other individuals concerning segregation in public schools in Hoxie, Arkansas. Olney and Tompkins in their memorandum of 9/1/55, advised that Attorney General had authorized the Bureau to conduct investigation concerning the activities of the above. The Department felt that these organizations, members thereof and other individuals were waging a campaign to force the school board to re-establish segregated schools and that the rights of school children to attend regularly established and nonsegregated schools have been endangered. Investigation ordered 9/3/55, and Little Rock report of 9/19/55, (received 9/21/55) being forwarded to Department.

Investigation reflects that Hoxie School District has approximately 1,000 white students and 25 colored students in the district. Integration was voted at school board meeting on 6/5/55, by a vote of 3 to 2. On 6/25/55, board voted unanimously to integrate at session beginning 7/11/55. On 8/3/55, meeting of persons opposing integration held, led by [redacted] and Citizens Committee of Hoxie formed. Petition and resolution drawn up asking reconsideration of program by board and advising that children would not patronize schools unless integration discontinued. Attendance of white students off about 33% after this meeting. Meeting held 8/13/55, and Amis Guthridge of White America, Incorporated and Finos Phillips, President Little Rock Chapter, spoke. [redacted] and [redacted] say [redacted] hired as attorney for Citizens Committee and this Committee not affiliated, or part of White America, Inc. Petition then circulated asking board to resign. Board refused and closed

cc: Mr. Nichols
Mr. BelmontEnclosure
WMA:ush
(8)

NOT RECORDED

46 SEP 30 1955 SEP 30 1955

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 105-37125-24

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

schools 8/19/55, two weeks early, to allow tension to ease. (It should be noted Hoxie has split term to allow children to help during harvest season).

On 9/7/55, school board through Attorneys [redacted] issued statement that integration to be continued. Schools scheduled to reopen 10/31/55. All persons interviewed deny existence of any violence or actual threats thereof.

ACTION:

(1) Little Rock was instructed by teletype of 9/23/55, to conduct some additional interviews and to submit a report not later than 9/30 next. While the investigation conducted by the Little Rock Office appears to give a complete picture, these interviews were ordered to further insure that all possibilities and angles are exhausted.

(2) From the investigation presently conducted there appears to be no indication of a civil rights violation; however, copies of the report and its enclosures are being sent to the Criminal and Internal Security Divisions as requested by their memorandum of 9/1/55. A memorandum is enclosed for your approval.

(3) Since this investigation concerns an organization which may be considered under Executive Order 10450 and is in line with the matter set forth in SAC Letter 55-40 captioned "Citizens Councils and States' Rights Movements, Internal Security - X", the report should be examined by supervisors in Domestic Intelligence Division for any additional action necessary from the security standpoint.

fr. Boardman
r. Belmont
Baumaardner

Mr. Rozamus

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

September 21, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI

ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI File 105-94237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/4/01 BY 247 WLS

915421

4PILsm

For your information, I am in receipt of a letter dated September 15, 1955, from Robert B. Patterson, Secretary, Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, Winona, Mississippi. A copy of the communication is enclosed. It is noted that copies of his letter have been designated for the President and the Attorney General.

The files of this Bureau reflect that correspondent has in the past forwarded to this Bureau material of an anti-integration nature. On March 28, 1955, he contacted an Agent of this Bureau at Winona, Mississippi, and furnished the Agent a list of names of the State Executive Committee of the captioned organization and a copy of its constitution.

I am instructing the Special Agent in Charge of our Memphis Office to have an Agent contact the correspondent in order to orally acknowledge receipt of his letter by me. The Agent is being instructed that at the time of the contact he should clearly inform the correspondent that investigations are conducted by the FBI for the sole purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as defined by Congressional enactments, Executive Orders and Departmental instructions.

Enclosure

See - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)
Warren Olney III

NOTE: Attachment to memo Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 9-20-55, captioned as above MJR:fmb.

16 SEP 27 1955

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MJR:fmb
(10)

COMM - FBI

SEP 22 1955

MAILED 31

50 OCT 3 1955

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *R*

DATE: 9/27/55

FROM : F. L. Price *gfb*SUBJECT: ① ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI;
ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Rm.	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

WHITE AMERICA, INCORPORATED
SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
HOXIE, ARKANSAS,
CIVIL RIGHTS;
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/6/01 BY 60267NLS RPL/47
91842

This is to record that at 9:47 A.M. on 9/27/55, A. B. Caldwell, Chief Civil Rights Section, Criminal Division, telephonically inquired of Supervisor [] of the Investigative Division regarding material in the above-captioned files. Mr. Caldwell stated that he recalled the Bureau had recently received a letter from Patterson, "Secretary of the Citizens' Council," in which Patterson offered the Bureau complete cooperation and stated the files of the organization, its meetings, etc. were open to the Bureau. Caldwell desired to know the specific reference to the letter so he could locate it in the Department's files (a letter was received by the Bureau from Patterson dated 9/15/55, offering the Bureau full cooperation and a copy of this letter was furnished to Assistant Attorney General Tompkins and to Assistant Attorney General Olney by memorandum dated 9/21/55, prepared by the Domestic Intelligence Division).

Caldwell further desired to know the specific reference to a copy of a letter Patterson had sent to James D. Johnson, State Senator in Arkansas, offering recording of a speech delivered in December 1954 in Mississippi by individual reportedly a national organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Caldwell stated he desired to obtain this information to show a possible link between the Citizens' Councils in Mississippi and a group in Arkansas. He further advised that he had ascertained from Thurgood Marshall that the NAACP could prove there was no such person as Roosevelt Williams, reported to be the speaker on the recording furnished by Patterson. (a leaflet issued by the "White Citizens Council of Arkansas which contained a reproduction of the letter from Patterson to Senator Johnson was received by the Bureau and a Photostat thereof was forwarded to the Criminal Division on 9/20/55, in connection with the investigation at Hoxie, Arkansas).

CLM:ush
(7) 4
35

RECORDED - 36

100-34237-379
7 SEP 29 1955

60 OCT 6 1955

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-34237-379

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

Mr. Caldwell was advised that Supervisor [] would endeavor to see if such information was available in the files of the Bureau. It is noted that Mr. Caldwell indicated that the Department might desire to have Patterson contacted in an effort to obtain the recording. The letter received by the Bureau from Patterson is to be orally acknowledged by an Agent who is to inform him that investigations are conducted by the Bureau for the sole purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as defined by Congressional enactments, executive orders, and Departmental instructions.

ACTION:

Inasmuch as the information had previously been furnished to the Criminal Division, Mr. Caldwell was advised at 2:25 P.M., 9/27/55, of the specific memoranda which had been transmitted to the Department so that the information could be located by him in the Department's files.

Handwritten signature

rdman
mont
ngardner
[]
mms

b6
b7C

45
SAC, Memphis (105-121)

September 21, 1955

Director, FBI (105-34297) - 56

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/4/01 BY 60267NLS
9/19/02 EP/LN

EX-100
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Enclosed are copies of a letter dated September 15, 1955, received at the Bureau from Robert B. Patterson, Secretary of the captioned organization at Winona, Mississippi.

Bufiles reflect that correspondent is known to your office and that on March 28, 1955, he contacted SA George A. Everett in order to furnish names of the State Executive Committee of the captioned organization, together with a copy of its constitution.

You are requested to have a mature, experienced Agent contact the correspondent as soon as possible to orally acknowledge receipt of his letter by the Director. At the time of the contact the correspondent should be clearly informed that investigations conducted by the FBI are made for the sole purpose of carrying out its responsibilities as defined by Congressional enactments, Executive Orders and Departmental instructions.

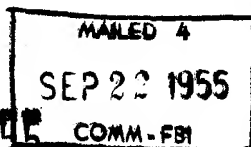
In the event correspondent volunteers any pertinent information of interest to the Bureau, such information should be accepted. However, the Agent should be most circumspect during the contact so as not to possibly cause any embarrassment to the Bureau. The date and results of the contact should be furnished to the Bureau within ten days of receipt of this letter by your office.

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Attachment to memo Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 9-20-55, captioned as above, MJR:fmb

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MJR:fmb
(8)



1 OCT 13 1955

ASSOCIATION OF
CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
WINONA, MISSISSIPPI

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

FRED A. ANDERSON, JR.
GLOSTER, AMITE COUNTY

TOM P. BRADY
BROOKHAVEN, LINCOLN COUNTY

M. L. BRANCH
WINONA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

J. B. CUNNINGHAM
BROOKSVILLE, NOXUBEE COUNTY

W. S. CURRY
ITTA BENA, LEFLORE COUNTY

RAY HENDERSON
CARTHAGE, LEAKE COUNTY

E. W. HOOKER
LEXINGTON, HOLMES COUNTY

FRED JONES
INVERNESS, SUNFLOWER COUNTY

M. P. MOORE
SENATOBIA, TATE COUNTY

ELLIS W. WRIGHT
JACKSON, HINDS COUNTY

ROBERT B. PATTERSON
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
WINONA, MISS.

W. J. SIMMONS
ADMINISTRATOR
WALTHALL HOTEL
JACKSON

ELLETT LAWRENCE
FINANCE CHAIRMAN
GREENWOOD

FORREST HEATH
STATE TREASURER
PRES. BANK OF WINONA
WINONA

September 15, 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/20/01 BY 40210 WLS
918421 EPL/m

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Chief
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The FBI has always had the respect of the South, due to the character and integrity of its Agents and to the fact that you have never allowed your Bureau to become involved in politics. Now, however, there is a trend starting in the South that I am sure will concern you, as it does every patriotic American.

Due to constant agitation by the NAACP, Northern newspapers and the negro press, various incidents that occur in the South are ballooned into unbelievable proportions for propaganda purposes in the North.

The Justice Department makes a statement that it has no authority in various fields that concern the states. A NAACP delegation visits the Justice Department which promptly changes its mind and says the FBI will investigate. The newspapers publicly announce the forthcoming investigation, thereby nullifying its effectiveness.

Our Attorney General boasts to some negro organization about how well integration is working in Hoxie, Arkansas, when at the time of his statement Hoxie, after much turmoil and confusion, had disintegrated a couple of weeks previously. Then the newspapers make a big play of the fact that integration at Hoxie will be investigated by the FBI.

Southern people know that one negro vote in Harlem is equal to 5 5/8 votes in Mississippi towards the election of a President. Southern people know of the Communist front affiliations of the President of the NAACP, Arthur Spingarn, of its Chairman of the Board, Channing Tobias, and of one of its founders, W. E. B. Debois.

RECORDED - 77
INDEXED - 77

EX - 103

105-34237-38

SEP 20 1955

Dedicated to the maintenance of peace, good order and domestic tranquility in our Community and in our State and to the preservation of our State's Rights.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

EXP. PROC.

SEP 19 1955

John Edgar Hoover

-2-

September 15, 1955

Southern people know that the NAACP, through political pressure, has tricked our Supreme Court into nullifying the 10th Amendment to our Federal Constitution. They know of the Communist front affiliations of the so-called authorities cited by the Court in its "Black Monday" decision. Southern people know that one of the main talking points for integration has been to impress the Chinese, the Africans and the Russians.

Southern people know of the rabid, prejudiced antics of the NAACP Congressman, Adam Clayton Powell, in the Halls of Congress. Southern people, both black and white, recognize the NAACP for what it is, a Left-wing power mad organ of destruction for the negro race that cares not one whit for our national unity, nor for the average negro American. Southern people, through the press, are now being led to believe that the NAACP, through its political influence and the Attorney General, is using the FBI to intimidate Southerners who will not submit to its radical integration aims.

It would be disastrous to our nation for the FBI to lose even a part of the prestige and support that it now has in the South. As you know full well, integration cannot be forced upon the Southern people. That method was tried eighty years ago, and it failed.

I would suggest that the NAACP and its political sympathizers further brain-wash the South by telling us how well integration is working in Washington and how it has improved the peace, good order, and domestic tranquility of our Nation's Capitol.

You may be assured of our complete cooperation, if you want it. Our files, our meetings, and our hearts are open to your Bureau until the day that the Southern people suspect that it is mixed up in politics or is prejudiced in favor of the NAACP. It is not what the facts are, it is what the people think they are that is important in this case.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Patterson

Secretary

Citizens' Council of Mississippi

cc: President Dwight D. Eisenhower
Attorney General Herbert Brownell

cc Boardman
Belmont
Liaison Section
[redacted]

-b6
b7c

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 6, 1955

Director, FBI

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 40240 WMS EPI/2m

W 915421

For your information there is being furnished you hereinafter data concerning organizations which have been formed for the purpose of perpetuating segregation.

Subsequent to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, relative to integration of Negroes and whites in public schools the first Citizens Council was formed in Indianola, Mississippi, on July 11, 1954. Thereafter groups in states from Delaware to Texas formed similar organizations and patterned their activities after the one initiated in Mississippi. The magnitude of these organizations is considerable as is indicated by the fact that in Mississippi alone the state-wide organization reportedly has 253 chapters and a membership of approximately 50,000 to 60,000. To date this Bureau has received information concerning 32 of these organizations which have been established in 14 states. A list of these organizations is set forth hereinafter.

Data received in connection with these councils which were formed for the ostensible purpose of maintaining segregation reveals they include such individuals as state legislators, doctors, lawyers, bankers, et cetera, who claim they are opposed to any use of force or violence in preserving segregation. These organizations disclaim any affiliation with or similarity to the Ku Klux Klan and avowedly intend to achieve their objective through use of economic pressure brought to bear on members of the National Association for the

COMM - FBI

OCT 6 1955
MAILED 20

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

NOTE ON YELLOW:

RECORDED - 71 105-34237-39

Enclosure to memo from Belmont to Boardman dated 10/5/55, same caption, CFW:gft.

Letter to Honorable Dillon Anderson, Special Assistant to the President; Letter to G-2, ONI, OSI same date.

CFW:gft

59 OCT 10 1955

Letter to The Attorney General

Advancement of Colored People, individuals seeking Negro votes, Negro voters and integrationists. It has been reliably reported, however, that Ku Klux Klan members in Florida have been instructed to join citizens councils and thereby gain a respectable front while continuing to work for segregation.

Set forth below are the names of organizations about which this Bureau has received information:

Alabama

**American States' Rights Association
Citizens Council of Alabama**

Arkansas

**White America, Incorporated
White Citizens Council of Arkansas**

Balabama

**Christian American Segregation Association
National Association for the Advancement of White
People
The Dover Citizens Committee for White Schools**

Florida

**Citizens Council of Florida
Florida States' Rights, Incorporated**

Georgia

**States' Rights Council of Georgia
The National Association for the Advancement and
Protection of the Majority of the White People**

Louisiana

**Citizens Council of New Orleans
Federation for Constitutional Government
Knights of the White Christians
Southern Gentlemen**

Letter to The Attorney General

Maryland

**Maryland Petition Committee
Better Dorchester Schools, Incorporated**

Mississippi

Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi

Missouri

Association for States' Rights and Segregation

North Carolina

**Citizens Service Association
Patriots of North Carolina
States' Rights League of North Carolina**

South Carolina

**Citizens Committee
States' Rights League of South Carolina**

Tennessee

Oak Ridgers for Segregation

Texas

**Citizens Council, Big Spring, Texas
Citizens Council, Dallas, Texas
Citizens Council, Orange, Texas
Citizens Council, Tarrant County (Fort Worth), Texas
Kilgore Citizens Council, Kilgore, Texas**

Virginia

**Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties
Virginia League**

Letter to The Attorney General

In addition to the above, several other groups established prior to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, have participated in pro-segregation activities among which are the Christian Nationalist Crusade, Los Angeles, California, which is directed by Gerald L. K. Smith; and the National Citizens Protective Association, Saint Louis, Missouri, an offshoot of the Christian Nationalist Crusade.

The foregoing information is being furnished the Honorable Billen Anderson, Special Assistant to the President.

- cc - Mr. William P. Rogers
Deputy Attorney General
- cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren G. Gandy III
- cc - Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

REPORT MADE AT New Orleans, Louisiana	DATE WHEN MADE 10/7/55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/19,21,29/55	REPORT MADE BY LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR. (A) mas
TITLE ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Annual report of Association of Citizens' Councils indicated that first major accomplishment and first project undertaken by Councils on state level was passage of Constitutional amendment to raise voter qualifications. Next major effort was reportedly the school amendment which was passed 12/21/54 and gave Legislature power to abolish public schools as last resort to prevent racial integration. Annual report indicates Citizens' Councils have been formed in Ala., Ark., Fla., Ga., La., Mo., N. C., S. C., Texas, Tenn. and Va. Newspaper article indicates negro organization which has blessing of white Citizens' Councils being organized to foster segregation and combat and expose negro agitators. Activities concerning a local Mississippi chapter set out.

DETAILS:

AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

AGENCY RAB-6, 6-2, ONE, 052
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 10-14-55
HOW FORW. RIS
BY C.F.W.-el

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available on September 19 and 21, 1955, various bulletins and publications issued by the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi. T-1 produced an annual report issued by the Citizens' Councils dated August, 1955, at Winona, Mississippi. This report disclosed that in July, 1954, the first Citizens' Council was formed in Indianola, Mississippi, by fourteen men who met and counselled together on the terrible crisis precipitated by the United States Supreme Court in its "Black Monday" decision of May 17, 1954. The report stated that for the first time in American history racial segregation, the way of life regulating the daily activities

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 4-12-89 BY SP-7 mac/BB CC-acc
10-21-55
105-34237-1

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <u>6-19-55</u> <u>6-19-55</u> <u>6-19-55</u>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <u>6-19-55</u> <u>6-19-55</u> <u>6-19-55</u>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE <u>105-34237-1</u> <u>105-34237-1</u> <u>105-34237-1</u>	RECORDED - 4 INDEXED - 4 EX-122
SEE NEXT PAGE		18 OCT 10 1955	
6-Bureau (105-34237) (Registered)			

PROPERTY OF FBI—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

50 OCT 18 1955

NO #105-492

of tens of millions of American citizens, black and white, in a well known pattern of familiar and satisfactory conduct had been decreed illegal.

It was reported that these fourteen men, having no idea that such a small beginning would, in a few months' time, expand miraculously into a virile and potent organization, worked out the basic ideas underlying the Citizens' Councils' method of operation. It was reported that the idea for four committees was born: Membership and Finance, Legal Advisory, Political and Elections, and Information and Education. It was stated that within the scope of these four fields of activity lies the real heart and muscle of the Citizens' Councils.

The report stated that the idea of solid and unified backing of Circuit Clerks, Sheriffs and local and state officials in the proper discharge of their sworn duties was worked out. The concept of assembling non-political community leadership into a unified body to provide the best thinking on the local level, dealing with local problems, became deeply rooted.

It was stated that the impending threat was of such magnitude that the elected officials would be unable to deal with it without the unyielding and organized support of thousands of responsible white

COPIES: 6 - Bureau (105-34237) (REGISTERED)
1 - Atlanta (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Birmingham (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Charlotte (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Dallas (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - El Paso (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Houston (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Kansas City (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Knoxville (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Little Rock (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Mobile (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Miami (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Norfolk (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - Richmond (Info.) (REGISTERED)
1 - St. Louis (Info.) (REGISTERED)
2 - Memphis (105-121) (REGISTERED)
2 - New Orleans (105-492)

NO #105-492

citizens to counter the steadily mounting pressure and unceasing attacks from left-wing groups which were and are liberally financed, skilled in revolutionary techniques, and literally a closed book to most of the political leaders and irrevocably dedicated to "our destruction."

The annual report revealed that the first major accomplishment and the first project undertaken by the Council on a state level was the passage of the Constitutional amendment to raise voter qualifications in Mississippi. Although this same amendment failed to pass in 1952, it passed by a tremendous majority when the people of Mississippi, through the Citizens' Councils, were informed of the necessity and reason for the passage of this amendment. The report stated that it was impossible to estimate the value of this amendment to future peace and domestic tranquility in this state.

The report also stated that the next major effort was the school amendment and, on December 21, 1954, the people of Mississippi passed the amendment and gave the Legislature power to abolish public schools as a last resort in order to prevent racial integration in the schools. In passing this amendment, the report stated, the world was told in no uncertain terms that before the State of Mississippi would submit to integration schools would be abolished and state-supported private schools would be set up.

The annual report stated that during the first year of their existence the Citizens' Councils have shown an impressive statistical growth. It was reported that in less than a year's time they have now developed 253 Citizens' Councils in Mississippi with a white male membership of over 60,000. It was reported that Councils have been organized in each Congressional district in the state and, in addition, ladies' auxiliaries have been organized and have many lady members in the various Councils.

It was reported that the Citizens' Councils of Mississippi have received national publicity and the state office is corresponding regularly with interested Americans in 46 states, Iceland, Alaska, South Africa and Mexico. It was reported that public opinion was being mobilized so that it may express itself from every direction against any attempt at integration. It was reported that the Councils were attempting to present the case for segregation to the entire nation as well as to the South. It was further reported that Citizens' Councils have been formed in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and Missouri.

NO #105-492

A statement by Mr. R. B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary, Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, encouraged every Citizens' Council member to invite his friends and relatives in other counties and states to organize so they could play their part in this "righteous cause." PATTERSON stated that organized aggression must be met with organized resistance, and he referred to the NAACP, the CIO and other left-wing groups as being well organized and highly financed. He stated that there were 40,000,000 white Southerners and only 250,000 members of the NAACP in the entire nation. He stated that these 40,000,000 white Southerners, or a fraction thereof, if properly organized, can be a power in this nation, but they must be thoroughly organized from the town and county level up. He reported that it must be an organization supported and controlled by the people and not by any politician or any political party.

PATTERSON reported that the "Black Monday" decision of the Supreme Court should unite the South more solidly than any other issue and that counties and towns which have not already been organized should take pride in organizing so that others will not have to bear their burdens for them. He stated that the fate of this nation may rest in the hands of the Southern white people today. He stated that if the white Southerners submit to this unconstitutional judge-made law of nine political appointees, the malignant powers of mongrelization, Communism and atheism will surely destroy this nation from within. He reported that racial intermarriage had already begun in the North and unless stopped would spread to the South.

He reported that integration represents darkness, regimentation, totalitarianism.

The annual report furnished by T-1 also carried an article under the caption "Land of One Race," which reads as follows:

"In Brazil, you will find blue eyes and black skin, flat skulls with triangular faces, hair plaited in pigtails, white babies at the breasts of colored mothers, colored babies at the breasts of white mothers and colors running from ebony to eggshell via copper, olive, caramel, and banana.

"Is this to be the fate of our beloved Nation, decreed by nine political appointees to impress the Asiatics and using as their authority the writings of Socialist and Communist tinged authors?

"This amalgamation has already begun in the North, but it can be checked by an aroused public opinion to nullify this infamous BLACK MONDAY decree."

New Orleans Confidential Informant T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available on September 21, 1955, a circular distributed by the Federation for Constitutional Government, 801 American Bank Building, New Orleans 6, Louisiana, which was signed by JOHN U. BARR, Temporary Chairman. This circular quoted excerpts from a speech made by Senator JAMES O. EASTLAND (Mississippi) in which it was stated that it was essential that a nation-wide organization be set up; that it would be a people's organization, an organization not controlled by fawning politicians who cater to organized racial pressure groups. It was described as a people's organization to fight the Court, to fight the CIO, to fight the NAACP and to fight all the conscienceless pressure groups who are attempting our destruction. The article stated, "We will mobilize and organize public opinion. We will attempt to pledge candidates in advance as they attempt to pledge them."

An article appearing in the Clarion-Ledger, daily newspaper of Jackson, Mississippi, on July 25, 1955, disclosed that a split was developing in the negro population in the State of Mississippi and there appeared to be so many factions that it could not be expected that the negro population would vote in the gubernatorial election in August, 1955, as a bloc. The article reported that at one extreme was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and at the other extreme a group which was "sort of" referred to as Negro Citizens' Councils. It was reported that this group had the blessings of the white Citizens' Councils and it was reported that it would foster segregation and combat and expose negro agitators and encourage racial pride among the negro people.

The article related that leaders of the various factions have been attacking each other openly. It stated that editors like PERCY GREENE of Jackson and H. H. HUMES of Greenville, Mississippi, who also had backing of religious and political organizations, have taken to task both the NAACP and Dr. T. R. M. HOWARD of Mound Bayou, President of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership. It was reported that GREENE and HUMES maintain that the NAACP drive for integration has hurt the negroes' cause in Mississippi and, in turn, GREENE and HUMES are called "Uncle Toms" for their willingness to go along with segregation.

On August 18, 1955, an article appearing in the State Times, daily newspaper of Jackson, Mississippi, quoted a Mrs. RUBY HURLEY of Birmingham, Regional Secretary of the NAACP, as saying that "since school boards in Mississippi are not complying with the petitions, it looks like the only thing we can do is go into the Courts to implement the U. S. Supreme Court decision against segregation." This article also quoted

MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

NO #105-492

MEMBER CITIZENS' COUNCIL

MISS.

Mr. ELLIS W. WRIGHT, President of the Jackson Citizens' Council, as praising the Jackson School Board for shelving the NAACP petition for integration of city schools. This article quoted Mr. WRIGHT further as stating, "While these petitions, which are being filed in Mississippi and all over the South, are undoubtedly propaganda devices intended to scare the white people, agitate the negroes and raise funds for the NAACP, they do represent the first move in the strategy of the NAACP leading to an all-out effort to coerce an unwilling South into compliance with the Supreme Court edict." The article further quoted Mr. WRIGHT as saying, "The NAACP ultimatum is a demand upon our public officials to violate the laws of the sovereign State of Mississippi, which we are sworn to uphold. We, therefore, take the position that a complete and thorough investigation should be undertaken by the proper authorities to determine the type of petitioners and their motives in making such unheard-of demands. The new modern schools built by white people's taxes are evidently not good enough. Particularly in view of the statements of seven of the original signers that the true nature of the petition was 'misrepresented' to them by the NAACP and that they were 'duped' into signing, and charging 'trickery,' it would seem entirely in order that all of the petitioners be placed under oath and sworn testimony given under penalty of perjury to determine what fraud the NAACP may have tried to perpetrate upon this community."

Mr. WRIGHT was further quoted in the article as saying, "The Citizens' Councils are the answer of the white people in Mississippi to this juggernaut. We do not propose to idly stand by and allow our city and state to be taken over by the NAACP or any other outside agitators. We are neither apathetic nor indifferent. To defeat the race-mixing program of the NAACP, the active membership and support is needed of every white man and woman who feels as we do - that integration cannot be imposed upon a majority against its will, provided it is organized to protect itself and its legitimate interests."

New Orleans Confidential Informants T-1 and T-2 advised that the Jackson Chapter of the Citizens' Councils of Mississippi was composed of prominent leaders in the fields of business, the professions and religious groups. They stated that the organization proposes to peacefully oppose integration of the races through lawful and legal procedures. They stated that the Citizens' Councils do not advocate violence in any way in order to accomplish their purpose and that they definitely have no connection with any subversive groups.

On August 30, 1955, the Louisville Division advised that information had been received from [redacted] Louisville, Kentucky, on August 23, 1955, to the effect that she had just returned from Detroit, Michigan, where the 54th Annual Session of the

NO #105-492

Imperial Council AEAONMS and the 54th Annual Session of the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, was held. She reported that at this meeting a Mrs. ELIZA M. COLEMAN, Imperial High Priestess and Deputy - Desert of Mississippi, who was from Jackson, Mississippi, made a talk in which she stated that the Citizens' Council in Jackson was harassing the negro people to such an extent that they fear for their lives. She (COLEMAN) said the negroes are afraid to sit near a lighted window in their own homes at night and that they do not dare to attempt to enter the office of any Federal agency such as the FBI to make a complaint for fear they will be arrested before they could reach the office. COLEMAN stated that in a recent election the negro people in Natchez, Mississippi, were not allowed to vote and that the roads leading out of Natchez were blocked by white people to prevent the negroes in Natchez from going to some other location to vote. INA NETTLES reported that Mrs. COLEMAN encouraged the people present to go back to their homes and complain to the FBI and other Federal agencies concerning the mistreatment of negro people in Mississippi by the Citizens' Councils in an effort to obtain protection from the Federal Government.

AT NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

Mr. S. C. GRAFT, Chief of Police, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised on August 31, 1955, that there was a Citizens' Council meeting at the Adams County Court House on the night of August 30, 1955. They estimated that approximately 500 to 600 people were in attendance and the principal speaker of this meeting was Mr. EVERETT TRULY, a prominent attorney at Jackson, Mississippi, who is reportedly the legal advisor for the group. They reported that the following officers were elected:

MEMBERS: CITIZENS' COUNCIL OF MISSISSIPPI
GEORGE GULLEDGE, 32 Magnolia Place, Natchez, President.
MISS.

L. S. PICKLE, 3603 Laurel Street, Natchez, Vice President.
MISS.

ROY SMITH, Natchez, Secretary and Treasurer.
MISS.

They reported that all of the officers were very reputable and respected citizens in Natchez.

[REDACTED] Fayette, Mississippi, reported that there was an active Citizens' Council in Fayette and that the president of this group is [REDACTED] who is a prominent farmer in that community and lives in [REDACTED] Mississippi.

MEMBERS: CITIZENS' COUNCIL OF MISSISSIPPI

- P -

- 7 -

NO #105-492

Information copies of this report are furnished to Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Kansas City, Knoxville, Little Rock, Mobile, Miami, Norfolk, Richmond and St. Louis in view of potential investigation that may develop in those divisions concerning the Association and related organizations.

I N F O R M A N T S

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to Whom Furnished</u>	<u>File No. Where Located</u>
T-1: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Jackson, Miss.	Background	9/19/55 9/21/55	LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.	Instant report
T-2: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Jackson, Miss.	General	9/21/55 9/29/55	LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR.	Instant report

L E A D S

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION

*At Memphis, Tennessee

Will follow and report activities of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi in the Northern District of Mississippi.

THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will follow and report activities of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi in the Southern Judicial District of Mississippi.

REFERENCE: Report of SA (A) LAURENCE J. FRANK, JR., New Orleans, 7/28/55.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: September 28, 1955

FROM : Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

WO:MWH:vmw

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
ROBERT B. PATTERSON

144-2-130

144-9-193

Internal Security - X
FBI File 105-34237FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 40240NLS/EP/LMM

#91842

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 21, 1955, to which was attached a copy of a letter to you from Robert B. Patterson, Secretary of the above-named organization.

I am enclosing herewith a photostat of a letter dated September 20, 1955, to Arthur B. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, Criminal Division, from Jonesboro, Arkansas. The letter, as you will note, refers in part to the Citizens Councils and attached to it is a circular apparently put out by the White Citizens Council of Arkansas, containing a letter from Mr. Patterson to Senator James D. Johnson, Crossett, Arkansas. This letter, as well as another portion of the circular, refers to a recording of a speech allegedly delivered in December of last year in Mississippi by the national organizer of the NAACP. In this connection, we note that Mr. Patterson's recent letter to you (See last paragraph) states "our files, our meetings and our hearts are open to your Bureau..." It will be appreciated, therefore, if you will have a representative contact Mr. Patterson and arrange to secure a transcript of this recording. If possible, we would like to have the speech re-recorded on tape, as well as a typed transcript of the same.

SEP 29 1955

EXP. PROC.

RECORDED-45

INDEXED-45

105-34237-41
10/7
6 SEP 29 1955

Enclosure No. 82570

2 Photostats of each
enc to FR 10/4/55
EX-121
Belmont
Baughman
205-53-15-55-64-22
FBI - INCLICE
RECEIVED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/01 BY 4821 JMS
91472

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

September 20, 1955

RECEIVED

SEP 22 1955

CRIMINAL DIVISION

RECEIVED

SEP 21 1955

b6
b7c

CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

Honorable Arthur B. Caldwell
Chief, Civil Rights Section
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Re: Noxie School District
144-9-193

144-1-113
18 SEP 21 1955
RECORDED M. B.
CRIM.-CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

Thanks for the letter of September 12, from Mr. Liney's office signed by you. It is my understanding from observation and hearsay reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a thorough investigation at Noxie. As you know, the Noxie School Board is deeply grateful.

Last Saturday "White America, Inc.," and a new organization which has blossomed out, "White Citizens Council of Arkansas", held a three or four hour long "Mass Meeting" on the lawn of the Lawrence County Court House at Walnut Ridge, one mile to the north of Noxie.

Speakers were James D. Johnson of Crossett, Arkansas, a lawyer, former State Senator, and unsuccessful candidate last summer for Attorney General of Arkansas; Kirt Copeland, Hot Springs, a publisher of a weekly "newspaper" called the "Run-down"; Amis Guthridge, Little Rock, "White America" lawyer, used furniture dealer, etc.; and Herbert Brewer, Noxie resident and head of the Noxie segregation movement.

Approximately one thousand people heard speeches. The orators lashed out bitterly at the Supreme Court of the United States, Attorney General of the United States, the F.B.I., the Methodist Church, Governor of Arkansas, Attorney General of Arkansas, University of Arkansas, all of the colleges of Arkansas, The Arkansas Gazette (state's oldest and largest newspaper) and the Noxie School Board.

Mr. Johnson at one point suggested that people refuse to pay their taxes in any locality where there were segregated schools. At another point either Johnston or Copeland suggested that segregation could be maintained by the use of "Colts, Winchesters, Smith & Wessons or a quarter's worth of leather plow line". Guthridge and Johnson as lawyers announced that they were going to

b6
b7C

Hon. Arthur B. Caldwell
Re: Hoxie - 144-9-193

-2-

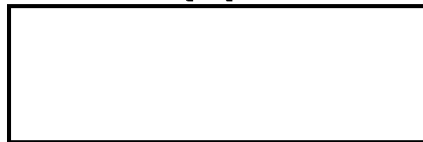
9/20/55

matters such as expenditures of district funds for hiring a lawyer (us) to represent them and the purchase of supplies and materials. Fortunately, the lawyer has not collected one penny fee, so that lawsuit cannot succeed.

One of their main attractions was a recording of a speech purportedly made by some N.A.A.C.P. "organizer" in Mississippi. Johnson frankly stated that the recording was presented in conjunction with the "Citizens' Councils of Mississippi". In their premeeting literature, the advertising and handbills, the recording was billed as the revelation of the plans of the negro race "for Southern white womanhood". I am attaching a copy of one of their pamphlets which is identical to the newspaper advertising on the subject. And, which is rather revealing of the tie between this undertaking and the Citizens' Councils of Mississippi.

This week my father and I received a letter from the head of the oldest and most respected law firm in Arkansas commending the Hoxie School Board. In the letter this lawyer suggests that any lawyer licensed to practice in the federal courts should be disbarred if he deliberately encouraged violation and evasion of a final ruling of any Supreme Court or court on any matter such as segregation. I am sure this has already been explored. However, I pass it along as a suggestion.

Sincerely yours



Enc.
L

MASS MEETING

For White Citizens of Walnut Ridge and Hoxie
Walnut Ridge Courthouse Square — Saturday, September 17, 2:30 P. M.

A Frank Discussion of . . .

"THE SEGREGATION ISSUE"

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/10/01 BY 60211WLB
#918W2) BFL

ASSOCIATION OF
CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
WINONA, MISSISSIPPI

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

FRANK A. ANDERSON, JR.
CLARK, ARK. COUNTY

WILLIAM P. KELLEY
BENTON, LINCOLN COUNTY

M. J. CRAWFORD
BENTON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

J. E. CUMMINGS
BENTON, HOLMES COUNTY

W. S. CUNY
BENTON, LEFLORE COUNTY

RAY HENDRICKSON
BENTON, LEFLORE COUNTY

E. W. HICKER
BENTON, HOLMES COUNTY

FRANK JAMES
BENTON, BENTON COUNTY

G. P. HARRIS
BENTON, TAYLOR COUNTY

ELIAS W. WRIGHT
BENTON, HINDS COUNTY

ROBERT S. PATTERSON
BENTON, WINONA COUNTY

W. A. SIMMONS
BENTON, WINONA COUNTY

WILLIAM L. LAMAR
BENTON, WINONA COUNTY

FORREST HENRY
BENTON, WINONA COUNTY

September 1, 1955

Senator James D. Johnson
Crossett, Arkansas

Dear Senator Johnson:

This is a recording of a speech delivered last
December in Mississippi, reportedly by a na-
tional organizer for the NAACP.

I felt that some of the decent people of Arkansas
might be interested in the NAACP's plans for
their state.

Very truly yours,
R. B. Patterson
R. B. Patterson

Dedicated to the maintenance of peace, order and domestic tranquility in our Community and the State
and to the preservation of our God's Right.

←

Hear the recorded speech of
a representative of the in-
famous N.A.A.C.P.

An insult to the white race
and in particular to the free-
dom-loving white people of
Arkansas.

Hear him explain, in his own
words, their plans for South-
ern white womanhood.

Join with Senator Jim Johnson in a crusade to awaken the white people
of Arkansas to a realization of the shocking dangers with which we and
our children are confronted.

White Citizens Council of Arkansas

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

0-9a

RECORDED-45

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. 10/3/55 AIR-TEL

Transmit the following message to: SAC, MEMPHIS (105-121)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON, INTERNAL SECURITY - X.

Rebulet 9/21/55, enclosing copies of a letter dated 9/15/55, from Patterson in which Patterson states that files of above-captioned organization are open to FBI Agents.

There are enclosed herewith two copies of a memorandum from Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, dated 9/28/55, in which it is requested that a representative of the FBI contact Patterson and arrange to secure a transcript of a recording which was allegedly furnished by Patterson to Senator James D. Johnson of Crossett, Arkansas, and was allegedly played at pro-segregation meetings at De Witt, Arkansas, on 9/12/55, and at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, on 9/17/55.

The White Citizens Council put out leaflets for both the above meetings reproducing a letter from Patterson on the letterhead of the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi dated 9/1/55, to Senator Johnson enclosing the recording in question.

You are instructed to contact Mr. Patterson immediately and request the recording, have it rerecorded on tape and have three typed transcripts of the recording made and forwarded to the Bureau. Mr. Patterson should be specifically advised that this request is being made at the specific instructions of Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. This matter must be handled by mature and experienced Agent personnel and the results of this contact with Mr. Patterson are to reach the Bureau not later than 10/14/55.

HOOVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/29/89 BY SP1 AGJ/CO
285814

Enclosures (2)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

cc: Little Rock (Info.) (Enclosure)
New Orleans (Info.) (Enclosure)
105-34237

WMA:ush
(6)

NOTE: Inasmuch as this matter concerns an organization possibly coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450, this communication should be routed through the Domestic Intelligence Division for its approval.

MAILED 11

OCT 3 1955

COMM - FBI

SENT VIA

M

Per

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 9-30-55

FROM : SAC, Memphis (105-121)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/21 BY 60347 NLS EP/LS

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Reurlet 9-21-55.

On 9-27-55, ROBERT B. PATTERSON was personally contacted by SA GEORGE A. EVERETT, at Winona, Mississippi, at which time SA EVERETT acknowledged receipt by you of his letter of September 17, 1955 and advised PATTERSON of the purpose of FBI investigations as outlined in your letter.

PATTERSON expressed his appreciation for the personal acknowledgment and stated the Citizens' Council in general, and he in particular, are ready at any time to furnish the FBI any information desired concerning the activities of the Association. PATTERSON stated the Association feels it has nothing to hide and no apology to make. He requested that SA EVERETT feel free to contact him at any time and make a request for information desired by the FBI.

PATTERSON stated that he feels you cannot fully share the views expressed by the Department with regard to the present racial involvement, since those views appear to him to be dictated by political motives rather than pure law enforcement. He said the people of the South have always had a higher respect for the FBI than other sections of the country, but that respect would be rapidly diminished if the FBI should be used as a tool for political purposes, which appears to him and others in the South to be developing in the racial investigations demanded by the Department.

No discussion of the above was entered into by SA EVERETT, but PATTERSON was advised that the Director was not concerned with or interested in political motives, being solely intent on performing his responsibilities under the Federal law.

PATTERSON at this time furnished SA EVERETT a copy of the present revised organizational structure of the Association, including the names of the State Executive Committee, the District Chairmen and County Chairmen in all counties where local Councils are organized. In addition, he stated there are now councils in the states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina. This information will be incorporated in the next report submitted in this matter.

GAE:BN
(3)

RECORDED - 121

105-34237-4

17 OCT 1955

INT

EXP. FILE

Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
[Redacted]
Liaison Section

b6
b7C

105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/11/01 BY 4022 JWS
915421 EP/146

Date: October 6, 1955

To: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Chief, Security Division

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

For your information there is being furnished you hereinafter data concerning organizations which have been formed for the purpose of perpetuating segregation.

Subsequent to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, relative to integration of Negroes and whites in public schools the first Citizens Council was formed in Indianola, Mississippi, on July 11, 1954. Thereafter groups in states from Delaware to Texas formed similar organizations and patterned their activities after the one initiated in Mississippi. The magnitude of these organizations is considerable as is indicated by the fact that in Mississippi alone the state-wide organization reportedly has 253 chapters and a membership of approximately 50,000 to 60,000. To date this Bureau has received information concerning 32 of these organizations which have been established in 14 states. A list of these organizations is set forth hereinafter.

COMM - FBI
OCT - 6 1955
MAILED 24

RECORDED - 50

105-34237-43

Enclosure to memo from Belmont to Boardman dated 10/5/55, same caption.

CFW:gft
(11)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

EX-124

Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army

Data received in connection with these councils which were formed for the ostensible purpose of maintaining segregation reveals they include such individuals as state legislators, doctors, lawyers, bankers, et cetera, who claim they are opposed to any use of force or violence in preserving segregation. These organizations disclaim any affiliation with or similarity to the Ku Klux Klan and avowedly intend to achieve their objective through use of economic pressure brought to bear on members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, individuals seeking Negro votes, Negro voters and integrationists. It has been reliably reported, however, that Ku Klux Klan members in Florida have been instructed to join citizens councils and thereby gain a respectable front while continuing to work for segregation.

Set forth below are the names of organizations about which this Bureau has received information:

Alabama

American States' Rights Association
Citizens Council of Alabama

Arkansas

White America, Incorporated
White Citizens Council of Arkansas

Delaware

Christian American Segregation Association
National Association for the Advancement of White
People
The Dover Citizens Committee for White Schools

Florida

Citizens Council of Florida
Florida States' Rights, Incorporated

Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army

Georgia

States' Rights Council of Georgia
The National Association for the Advancement and
Protection of the Majority of the White People

Louisiana

Citizens Council of New Orleans
Federation for Constitutional Government
Knights of the White Christians
Southern Gentlemen

Maryland

Maryland Petition Committee
Better Dorchester Schools, Incorporated

Mississippi

Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi

Missouri

Association for States' Rights and Segregation

North Carolina

Citizens Service Association
Patriots of North Carolina
States' Rights League of North Carolina

South Carolina

Citizens Committee
States' Rights League of South Carolina

Tennessee

Oak Ridgers for Segregation

Letter to Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
Department of the Army

Texas

Citizens Council, Big Spring, Texas
Citizens Council, Dallas, Texas
Citizens Council, Orange, Texas
Citizens Council, Tarrant County (Fort Worth), Texas
Kilgore Citizens Council, Kilgore, Texas

Virginia

Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties
Virginia League

In addition to the above, several other groups established prior to the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954, have participated in pro-segregation activities among which are the Christian Nationalist Crusade, Los Angeles, California, which is directed by Gerald L. K. Smith; and the National Citizens Protective Association, Saint Louis, Missouri, an offshoot of the Christian Nationalist Crusade.

The foregoing information is being furnished you for your confidential use and should not be disseminated outside of your Agency.

2 cc - Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

2 cc - Director of Special Investigations
The Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
Building Tempo E
4th and Adams Drive, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	FD-36
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FROM: FBI, MEMPHIS (105-121) 10/6/55
TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237) AIRTEL
RE : ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/16/01 BY 40267MJS
9/18/21 SP/LSH

ReBuairtel 10/3/55.

ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Winona, Miss., on 10/5/55 advised SA GEORGE A. EVERETT he does not have a copy of the recording referred to and did not send one to Senator JAMES D. JOHNSON, Crossett, Ark. He knows that JOHNSON did have such a recording, which he probably got in Miss., but PATTERSON stated he does not know the source or origin of the recording. He has heard the recording, which is rather mild, and he heard it has been played over radio stations in Miss. or Ark. The speech recorded, he said, sounded like an introduction rather than a speech and was alleged to have been made by an Arkansas Negro somewhere in Miss. He does not know the name of the speaker and said the recording is of poor quality. PATTERSON said the best source of a copy of the recording, as far as he knows, is Senator JOHNSON.

The Little Rock Office at Crossett, Ark., will contact Senator JAMES D. JOHNSON to secure the recording in accordance with referenced airtel UACB.

Mr. Belmont

PIPER

END

GAE:PS
(7)

cc-- 2 Little Rock

1 New Orleans (Info)

LC Baumgardner

Airtel.....
Teletype.....
A. M.....
U. S. D.....
Reg. Del.....
Reg. Mail.....
Registered.....

airtel PR
cc 10/11/55
10/11/55

10/11/55
C. F. ...
OCT 11 1955

OCT 7 1955

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M _____ Per _____

10/10/55 AIRTEL

15-34237-44 SAC, LITTLE ROCK

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON - INTERNAL SECURITY - X.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/6/01 BY 60267MJS

Re Memphis airtel 10/6/55.

918421 EDLm

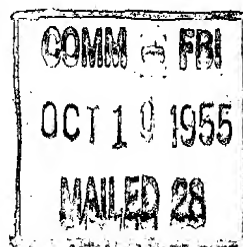
Contact Johnson and attempt to secure copy of recording. He should be advised that he is being contacted at request of Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III. Attempt to determine source from which Johnson received recording.

Memphis advise whether Patterson denied writing letter of 9/1/55 to Johnson enclosing recording which letter reproduced on leaflets distributed at DeWitt and Walnut Ridge.

RECOVER

cc - 1 Memphis (105-121)
105-34237

WMA:s jr
(5)



- Tolson _____
- Boardman _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Harbo _____
- Mohr _____
- Parsons _____
- Rosen _____
- Tamm _____
- Sizoo _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: Contents of Memphis airtel of 10/6/55 discussed with A. B. Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, Department of Justice who advised that Johnson should be contacted.

336
88 OCT 17 1955

b6
b7C

Handwritten signatures and initials: J.B., Rd, B.A., and others.

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

October 11, 1955

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60247WJ/s

RECORDED - 78

144-2-130-144
ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF
MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON;
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
(Your reference 144-2-130; 144-9-193, MWH)

918421 B0/427

Reference is made to your memorandum of
September 28, 1955, requesting that Mr. Patterson be con-
tacted and a transcript of a recording allegedly furnished
by Mr. Patterson to Mr. James D. Johnson, Crossett, Arkansas,
be secured.

This will confirm a conversation between Mr. A. B.
Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, Criminal Division,
and a Bureau representative on October 10, 1955.

Our Memphis Office has advised that Mr. Patterson,
Winona, Mississippi, was contacted on October 5, 1955, at which
time, he stated that he does not have a copy of the recording
referred to, and did not send one to Mr. Johnson in Crossett.
Mr. Patterson stated that he knew that Mr. Johnson did have
such a recording, which Mr. Johnson probably got in Mississippi,
but Mr. Patterson stated that he did not know the source or
origin of the recording. Mr. Patterson further advised that he
had heard the recording which he claimed is rather mild and he
has heard it played over radio stations in Mississippi or in
Arkansas. Mr. Patterson stated that the speech sounded like
an introduction rather than a speech and it was a speech alleged
to have been made by an Arkansas Negro somewhere in Mississippi.

Mr. Patterson stated further that he did not know the
name of the speaker and that the recording is of poor quality
and suggested that the best source of copy of the recording is
Mr. Johnson.

In accordance with the request of Mr. Caldwell,
Mr. Johnson is being contacted by our Little Rock Office in an
attempt to secure the requested transcript of the recording.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

WMA:bak
(4)

Note: Little Rock instructed by airtel 10/10/55

COMM - FBI
OCT 11 1955
MAILED 30

Mr. ROR
Am
Chen
ant

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: October 13, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

cc - Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
[redacted]
Mr. Belmont
[redacted]SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES'
RIGHTS MOVEMENT
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
BUFILE 105-34237

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/97 BY 60260NLS/EL

By memorandum 5/16/54 you were advised of formation of citizens councils in several Southern States which are opposed to integration of Negroes and whites in public schools.

Bureau has received data re 32 such organizations in 14 states. To illustrate magnitude of these groups, the one in Mississippi alone claims 253 chapters with membership of 50,000 to 60,000. These councils include as members prominent citizens such as state legislators, bankers, attorneys, etc., who claim they are opposed to use of force and violence. Two U. S. Senators, Johnson of South Carolina and Eastland of Mississippi, have lent support to councils in their respective states. These groups avowedly intend to achieve their objectives (1) by exerting economic pressure on Negro voters and integrationists and (2) through legal proceedings. They disclaim any affiliation with or similarity to Ku Klux Klan; however, information received that Klan members in Florida instructed to infiltrate these organizations, thereby gaining respectable front while working for segregation. Also former Klansmen have been reported to be members of these groups in some states. Department has advised conspiracy to injure or intimidate Negroes in their rights to vote by application of economic pressure or otherwise would seem to be violative of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Department "suggested" investigation of two of these councils in connection with Executive Order 10450. Inquiries have been initiated on these two groups and reports furnished Department.

Bureau's position in connection with conducting inquiries re these groups is extremely delicate. We could be charged with investigating citizens organizations which have committed no violations over which we have jurisdiction. However, it is believed necessary and desirable that we continue to keep apprised of activities of these organizations in order to (1) follow Klan infiltration of these organizations, (2) ascertain if these organizations fall within purview of Executive Order 10450 and (3) obtain intelligence information concerning the organizations and individuals connected therewith in event of future outbreaks of violence.

By SAC Letter 54-67 field advised of possible formation of these groups and to be prepared to maintain adequate informant coverage

Enclosure *sent* 10-18-55 RECORDED - 71

CFW:bas:dlf

(6)

62 NOV 29 1955

1 OCT 19 1955

105-34237-45
INT. SEC.

Memorandum to Mr. L. V. Boardman

to keep Bureau apprised of activities. SAC Letter 55-40 instructed field no inquiries should be conducted re these groups without prior Bureau authority and whenever possible contacts should be limited to established reliable sources after Bureau authority obtained to initiate inquiries. In view of rapid spread these councils, the absence of information indicating the councils are preparing to act in other than a lawful manner, and the possible adverse criticism which could be directed toward the Bureau it is believed advisable to further restrict the field in that only established reliable sources should be contacted without exception. This will undoubtedly reduce the amount of information otherwise obtainable concerning these groups but it will also reduce considerably the possibility of unjustified criticism which could be directed toward the Bureau. Other instructions previously furnished field are being reiterated.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is attached an SAC Letter redefining for the field the Bureau's investigative objectives in these cases and instructing field to contact established reliable sources only concerning these groups. It is recommended that this SAC Letter be approved.

HUP

M

V.

W

AS

7-6

7-6

7-6

OK

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____ b6
Mr. Boardman _____ b7C
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Parsons _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tamm _____
Mr. Sizoo _____
Mr. Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, MEMPHIS 10-17-55 BN
DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237) AIR TEL

RE: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON
IS - X

ReurAirtel 10-10-55 to Little Rock & Memphis.

When contacted 10-5-55, ROBERT B. PATTERSON neither admitted nor denied writing letter of 9-1-55 to JAMES D. JOHNSON, Crossett, Arkansas.

UACB, PATTERSON not being re-interviewed about letter.

Mr. Belmont

PIPER

END

GAE:BN
(4)
105-121

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/6/03 BY 60320MLJ

915421 49167

Airtel.....
Teletype.....
S. D.....
C. L.....
Mail.....
Registered.....

RECORDED - 84

105-634237-46

20 OCT 18 1955

66 OCT 27 1955

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b6
b7C

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

BUREAU (105-34237)

FBI LITTLE ROCK 10/13/55

DIRECTOR FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/16/01 BY 10247MS/KP/LH
91842

ReBuairtel to Memphis 10/3/55 and Buairtel to
Little Rock 10/10/55.

On 10/12/55 JAMES D. JOHNSON, attorney, Crossett,
Arkansas, was interviewed at his office in Crossett by SA's
[redacted] and [redacted] JOHNSON was requested to
furnish a copy of the recording mentioned in reairtels. He was
advised that the recording would be returned in its original
condition and that he was being contacted at the request of
Assistant Attorney General WARREN OLNEY III.

JOHNSON stated the recording was the property of ROBERT
B. PATTERSON of Mississippi and that it could not be furnished
without the consent of PATTERSON. In reply to a question as to
the source of the recording, JOHNSON replied that he obtained it
from PATTERSON. JOHNSON was asked whether he had more than one
copy of the recording and stated he did have more than one copy.
He was advised that PATTERSON had been interviewed by agents of
the Bureau, at which time he denied furnishing the recording to
JOHNSON. JOHNSON merely stated again that the recording was
PATTERSON's and that he would have to contact PATTERSON before
it could be made available.

He also stated he was not sure whether the recording
would be made available even after he contacts PATTERSON and
that there was a possibility a subpoena would be necessary before
the recording could be obtained.

JOHNSON suggested that he be recontacted in about one
week at which time the recording may be made available.

JWM:crc
(6)
105-133

RECORDED
Mr. Belmont

AIRTEL

TELETYPE 105-34237

A. M.

A. M. S. D.

SPEC. DEL.

REG. MAIL OCT 14 1955

cc: 1 - Memphis (105-121)

1 - Little Rock (105-134)

Approved: [Signature] Special Agent in Charge

SENT

M

Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

JOHNSON is a former State Senator in Arkansas and was an unsuccessful candidate for State Attorney General in 1954. He is a frequent speaker before pro-segregationist group meetings in various towns in the state and there are consistent reports that he will be a candidate for Governor of Arkansas in the next election.

JOHNSON will be recontacted on October 19, 1955, and again requested to furnish a copy of the recording, UACB. //

BRYANT

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

October 19, 1955

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7/1/01 BY 6024 MNL/S

915 421 BPL/m

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
(Your reference 144-2-130; 144-9-193 - MWH)

Reference is made to my memorandum of
October 11, 1955.

This will confirm a conversation between Mr. A. B.
Caldwell, Chief, Civil Rights Section, Criminal Division,
and a Bureau representative, October 17, 1955.

Our Little Rock Office, on October 12, 1955,
contacted Mr. James D. Johnson, attorney, Crossett,
Arkansas, at which time Mr. Johnson was requested to
furnish a copy of the recording which you requested be
obtained.

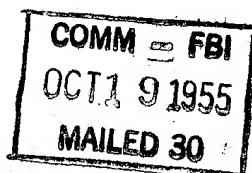
Mr. Johnson stated the recording was the property
of Robert B. Patterson of Mississippi, and it could not
be furnished without the consent of Mr. Patterson.
Mr. Johnson stated that he had obtained this recording
from Mr. Patterson, and he (Johnson) did have more than
one copy of the recording.

Mr. Johnson was advised that Mr. Patterson had
denied furnishing the recording to him, and Mr. Johnson
then stated that he would have to contact Mr. Patterson
before the recording could be made available. He stated
further that he was not sure whether the recording would
be made available even after he contacted Patterson,
inasmuch as there was a possibility that the recording
could not be secured without the use of a subpoena.
Mr. Johnson suggested that he be recontacted in approximately
one week, at which time the recording might be made available.

In accordance with the instructions of Mr. Caldwell,
Mr. Johnson is to be recontacted and requested to furnish
a copy of the recording.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

WMA:pap
(4)



JB
sam
Rox
chm
band

6606728

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 10/25/55

FROM : SAC, NEW ORLEANS (105-492)

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - XALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIEDDATE 4/4/01 BY 60347 MLS/EP
918421 LSH

Reference is made to captioned case which has been under investigation by the New Orleans Division.

The Bureau's attention is called to the fact that this organization reportedly originated in Indianola, Mississippi in July, 1954, and its publications emanate from Winona, Mississippi which is the reported headquarters for the executive officer, ROBERT B. PATTERSON.

It is suggested that under the circumstances the Memphis Division might be in a better position to cover the activities of this organization on the state level, since it covers the headquarters of the State Executive Officer. It is, therefore, suggested that the Memphis Division be designated the office of origin.

The Memphis Division is in possession of all pertinent serials in this case, and the New Orleans office will continue to follow and report the activities of the association in the Southern Judicial District of Mississippi.

LJF:jab

(4)

cc Memphis (105-121)

RECORDED - 71

INDEXED - 71

105-34237-41

20 OCT 28 1955

EX-110
11-7-55
CFW

INT

cc

b6
b7c

SAC, New Orleans (105-492)

November 7, 1955

RECORDED-92

Director, FBI (105-34237)-49

811-X3

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

Reurlet October 25, 1955.

In view of the fact that Memphis covers the headquarters of the State Executive Officer of the captioned organization, Memphis is being designated the office of origin in this case.

The New Orleans Office should continue to keep the Bureau promptly informed of all pertinent information obtained relative to this organization.

2cc - Memphis (105-121)

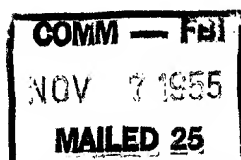
CFW:amk

(6) amk

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60247NLS/KLM

7 918421

Olson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



58 NOV 10 1955

FY13
Oct

WCT

OKed

10/26/55 AIR-TEL

SAC, LITTLE ROCK (105-133)

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI; ROBERT B. PATTERSON, IS-X.

Reurairtel 10/13/55, advising that James D. Johnson was to be recontacted on 10/19/55, in an effort to secure a copy of the recording. Advise results of further contact with Johnson. Suairtel.

HOOVER

105-34237

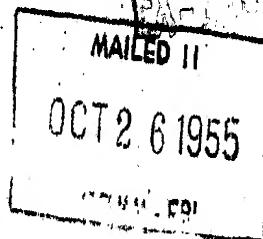
WMA:ush

(4)
4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/01 BY 60247 NLS/ALH

8919421

RECORDED-35



105-34237-50

17 OCT 28 1955

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

FLP
WMA

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-34237)

DATE: 10/17/55

FROM : SAC, Savannah (105-155)

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-XAIR MAILVIA REGISTERED MAIL

Remylets 9/2, 15, and 22/55 captioned
CITIZENS COUNCILS, IS-X, Bufile 105-34237
and mylet 10/1/55, captioned STATES' RIGHTS
LEAGUE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, IS-X, Bufile 105-34850.

An article in the October 11, 1955 issue of
"The State" a daily newspaper published at Columbia, S. C.,
reported that heads of Citizens Councils from throughout
S. C. had met on previous date in Columbia and had formed
a State-Wide Association of Citizens Councils.

An unnamed member of the steering committee
was quoted as saying the over-all purpose of the new
organization would be to co-ordinate the various aims
and objectives of the several Citizens Councils through-
out the state into one State-wide organization, but that
local councils would remain autonomous.

A committee member, also unnamed, was quoted
as listing purposes of the newly formed organization as
the gathering, discussion and dissemination of information
relative to the operation of constitutional government
and the preservation of state sovereignty and the bi-racial
society; the betterment of relations between the races, the
maintenance of peace, good order, and tranquility in the
community; the education of the public thereabouts and the
association with other groups having similar aims; and the
doing and performance of all acts and things incident to
the attainment of its purposes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/16/01 BY 40247 NLS
91 8421 EP/147

JDP:rqs
(7)

cc: 1 - Atlanta (Info) RM AM
1 - Charlotte (Info) RM
1 - Savannah (105-151)

RECORDED-91

12 OCT 19 1955

INDEXED-91

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-34237

37

(2)

10-28-55
CFW

EX-112

105-34237
31
105-34237
31
105-34237
31

Ltr to Director

Savannah, Ga.

10/17/55

Re: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-X

According to the article, each city having a Citizens Council, appoints a director and an alternate, who in turn select an executive committee which has the power to name the state-wide association of councils (SIC).

An article in the October 11, 1955 issue of the "News and Courier", a daily newspaper published at Charleston, S. C., stated "The directors of the association of Citizens Councils will be chosen by the council or councils in each county. Thereafter, the directors (one from each county) will choose their executive committee and state officers then will be selected by the executive committee".

Both articles mentioned stated the steering committee of the "Committee of 52", which recently circulated a resolution calling for the preservation of constitutional government and racial segregation, met with the heads of the Citizens Councils in Columbia and pledged support within the framework of their resolution. This resolution concerning which the Bureau will be advised in detail by separate communication, bears the names of individuals residing in various sections of South Carolina. Some of these names are recognizable at a glance as being the names of men of prominence.

As the Bureau has previously been advised, the Savannah Office has opened and had pending as of October 1, 1955, a total of 24 separate cases on individual Citizens Councils located in different places within the State of South Carolina. Several additional councils have thus far been organized during the month of October. A further report as to the total number will be made in a letter to the Bureau on or about November 1, 1955.

Ltr to Director

Savannah, Ga.

10/17/55

Re: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-X

In Charleston County, of which Charleston is the county seat, it appears from newspaper reports that Citizens Councils are being organized on the basis of school districts; that is, there will be a Citizens Council in existence for each school district. An item in the October 12, 1955 edition of the "Evening Post", a daily newspaper of Charleston, stated that when these local units are organized, each district will elect a representative to a central committee board which will disseminate information on the district's level. It appears additional councils will continue to be organized at a rapid rate within the State of South Carolina. It also appears the Citizens Councils will soon commence operating in Georgia.

An article in the October 12, 1955 edition of the "Savannah Evening Press", a newspaper published each week-day at Savannah, Ga., stated Attorney EUGENE COOK of Georgia "helped start a new Citizens Council group on its way last night with a speech accusing communists of engineering the race problems in the United States". The article stated this group was located at Springfield, Ga., and indicated it would be a county wide Council similar to numerous others formed in Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia. Ga.

Inasmuch as these various local Councils will operate autonomously, this office will continue UACB to open individual investigative files on each Council and report the activities of these Councils on an individual case basis. In addition, a case is being opened on the Association of Citizens Councils of South Carolina and reports on a State-wide basis will be prepared in this case. Information reported by

Ltr to Director

Savannah, Ga.
10/17/55

Re: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-X

the Savannah office in these cases, will as previously indicated, be obtained from three and only three sources as follows:

1. Public information
2. Knowledge of individual investigating Agent (such as business or occupation of officers)
3. From reliable and proved sources.

Isolated searches of the names of Citizens Council leaders have thus far revealed indication in our indices of former connection with the Association of Carolina Klans on the part of these Council leaders. Generally speaking, the names of the Council leaders continue to indicate they are individuals of prominence.

Racial tension seems to be mounting fast in some parts of South Carolina. Such mounting tension is not unlikely within the State of Georgia, particularly, since Attorney General COOK referred to above has publicly announced he intends later this week to "expose the ugly truth" about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He stated he and his staff had investigated the NAACP as to origin, aims and manipulators, and he would expose this organization before the Peace Officers Association of Georgia at the meeting of this association in Atlanta.

Lt. Governor E. F. ~~HOLLINGS~~ of South Carolina was quoted in "The State" of October 12, 1955, as praising the Citizens Council at Elloree where he spoke before the Lions Club on the previous date and as condemning the NAACP as a "subversive organization." 9

Ltr to Director

Savannah, Ga.
10/17/55

Re: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-X

Negro publications in South Carolina have published inflammatory articles concerning the Citizens Councils and racial segregation. Some of these articles have been written by MODJESKA SIMKINS, former SI subject of the Savannah Office. The NAACP in South Carolina is taking a very aggressive attitude in these racial matters at this time. Some of the items being published by negro writers are derisive. In one instance, an item referred to white men who practice segregation during the day time and integration at night.

*Lincoln
Municipal
Club*

This office has had two extortion investigations arising from the racial situation. The victim of one of these, the Rev. J. A. DELAINE of Lake City, S. C., fired a rifle into an automobile containing four white men which passed his house a few nights ago. A local warrant against DELAINE has since been executed upon complaint of the driver whose head was narrowly missed by the rifle bullet, and the Rev. DELAINE has departed from Lake City into parts unknown.

Economic pressures by the white people against the negroes and counter-economic pressures by the negroes against the white people are increasing in South Carolina, notably at Orangeburg. Details of these pressure moves will be set forth in a report concerning the Orangeburg Citizens Council at an early date.

No doubt this entire situation is of interest to the Department on the highest level. Press reports have indicated the NAACP has discussed the Citizens Councils with the Department. It is my feeling that a definite commitment should be made by the Department concerning these investigations in South Carolina and Georgia, and the Bureau has, in all likelihood, already taken this matter up with the Department. Beyond this, several questions of field office policy arise:

Ltr to Director

Savannah, Ga.

10/17/55

Re: CITIZENS COUNCILS
IS-X

1. Having already indexed the names of some of the Citizens Council leaders, we are finding in applicant type matters, notably in AEA investigations, that individuals seeking positions are related to, or have given as references, individuals who are leaders in these Citizens Councils. In addition, a Security Representative of the Savannah River Plant has indicated informally an interest in obtaining a thumbnail sketch of the Citizens Councils. Only two reports have thus far been submitted in these cases. As of this date we have 30 cases pending. I feel, therefore, that any characterization at this time of these Citizens Councils would be premature. This matter will be checked periodically with the expectation of preparing, if justified, a characterization of these Councils which will meet with the Bureau's approval for insertion in investigative reports for dissemination. Meantime, reference to the Citizens Councils is not being made in these applicant type cases. The Representative of the SRP is being advised his interest will be borne in mind.
2. The only two reports in possession of the Savannah Office dealing with Citizens Councils outside of the Savannah territory, fail to indicate dissemination to agencies outside the FBI. I recommend that reports prepared by this office concerning the various individual Citizens Councils, be disseminated in each instance to the local Intelligence Agencies, namely, OSI at Warner Robins AFB, Ga; G-2, Fort McPherson, Ga, and ONI, 6th ND, Charleston, S. C. This will be done UACB.
3. The title of each report will set forth the location of the particular Citizens Council. Please note, some of these Councils are being organized on a county wide basis; some are being organized on a school district basis; some on a city basis, and some on a joint basis by several cities. The title will be clear in each instance as to the exact jurisdiction of the particular Council.

The Bureau will be kept advised of developments.

*In every
instance find
interested to
disseminate
locally*

*This per
Bureau
instructions*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60262 NLS EP/LS4
X 918 421

105-342,071-57
CHANGED TO
105-40391-4

NOV 30 1955
Ed

cc Boardman
Belmont

b6
b7C

RECORDED-91
INDEXED-91

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

October 28, 1955

Director, FBI

X-121

~~CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS~~
INTERNAL SECURITY - R
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/10/01 BY 60367 NLS
915421 E P L H

Reference is made to my memorandum to the
Attorney General dated October 6, 1955, in which you
were furnished information concerning the formation
of pro-segregation organizations throughout the South.

The Savannah Office of this Bureau has advised
that an article in the October 11, 1955, issue of "The
State" a daily newspaper published at Columbia, South
Carolina, reported that heads of citizens councils from
throughout the state had met on October 10, 1955, in
Columbia and had formed a state-wide Association of
Citizens Councils.

An unnamed member of the Steering Committee
was quoted as saying the over-all purpose of the new
organization would be to coordinate the various aims
and objectives of the citizens councils throughout the
state into one state-wide organization, but that local
councils would remain autonomous.

A committee member, also unnamed, was quoted
as listing the purposes of the newly formed organization
as the gathering, discussion and dissemination of information
relative to the operation of constitutional
government and the preservation of state sovereignty and
the biracial society; the betterment of relations between
the races, the maintenance of peace, good order, and
tranquility in the community; the education of the public
throughout the state and the association with other groups having
similar aims; and the doing and performance of all acts
and things incident to the attainment of its purposes.

MAILED 8
OCT 28 1955
COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

Attachment to memorandum from Belmont to Boardman dated
10-28-55, re same caption. CFW:amk

NOV 10 1955
NOV 2 1955

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

**Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins**

An article in the October 11, 1955, issue of the "News and Courier," a daily newspaper published at Charleston, South Carolina, stated "The directors of the association of Citizens Councils will be chosen by the council or councils in each county. Thereafter, the directors (one from each county) will choose their executive committee and state officers then will be selected by the executive committee."

In Charleston County, South Carolina, it appears from newspaper reports that citizens councils are being organized on the basis of school districts; that is, there will be a citizens council in existence for each school district. On the basis of this information it appears that additional councils will be organized within South Carolina. At the present time information has been received concerning 30 such groups within the state.

Files of the Savannah Office indicate leaders of these councils were formerly connected with the Association of Carolina Klans. Information concerning this Klan organization has been furnished you previously.

Activities of a nature likely to increase racial tensions have been increasing; for example, Georgia State Attorney General Eugene Cook delivered a speech on October 11, 1955, before the Peace Officers Association of Georgia in which he charged that activities of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People "and its local fronts pose a serious threat to the peace, tranquility, government and way of life of our State." Cook reportedly stated "the issue involved is not of race, but rather of subversion," and that he proposes to take "appropriate action" on "the subversive nature of these activities."

Negro publications in South Carolina have published inflammatory articles concerning the citizens councils and racial segregation. Some of these articles have been written by Medjeska Simkins who is the subject of a current security investigation by this Bureau. Some of the items being published by Negro writers are derisive,

Letter to Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

and in one instance, an item referred to white men who practiced segregation during the day and integration at night. According to the Savannah Office, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in South Carolina is taking a very aggressive attitude in racial matters at this time.

Economic pressures by the white people against the Negroes and countereconomic pressures by the Negroes against the white people are increasing notably at Orangeburg, South Carolina.

The Savannah Office has also furnished information concerning Lincoln Emancipation Clubs, Inc., and State Negro Farmers Association, Inc., two Negro organizations which reportedly have been formed for the purpose of opposing pressures being applied by the white citizens councils. Inquiries are being made relative to the aims and purposes of these organizations. It is possible that similar organizations will be formed by Negroes in other states. Upon receipt of information concerning the formation of one of these organizations inquiries will be initiated to determine its aims and purposes, the methods used or advocated to achieve its objectives, and its potential for violence. Copies of all reports concerning both Negro and white organizations formed in connection with this racial situation will be furnished you promptly.

Additional pertinent information relative to racial tension in the South will be furnished you promptly upon receipt thereof by this Bureau.

cc - Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/01 BY 60267 NLS EP/LN

* 918421

105-34237-53

CHANGED TO

105-34850-24

NOV 14 1955

Rh

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

October 31, 1955

Director, FBI

RECORDED-9

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI FILE 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/6/01 BY 60247 MS

915421

EPHh

EX - 122

Reference is made to your memorandum dated October 25, 1955, in which you made reference to information received by you concerning 32 prosegregation organizations mentioned in my memorandum of October 6, 1955, to the Attorney General.

For your information the appropriate field offices of this Bureau have been instructed to submit reports concerning the eight organizations listed in your memorandum. Copies of these reports will be furnished you immediately upon receipt thereof by this Bureau. In addition the field offices covering territories in which citizens councils have been formed are being instructed to furnish the Bureau any information concerning acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution committed by individuals who are members of citizens councils. Information concerning these incidents will be furnished you promptly upon receipt thereof by this Bureau.

CFW:bas
(4)

YELLOW: Department advised in connection with designation of citizens councils under Executive Order 10450 it would be necessary to show that the organization has adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution. However, the acts of individual members thereof might reflect such policy. The Department requested all such acts committed by individuals be brought to the Department's attention.

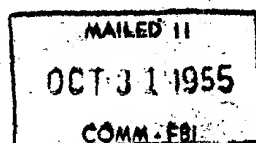
OCT 31 1 20 PM '55

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI

RECEIVED - NOV 1 1955



68 NOV 7 1955

LB4
CAB
RFB
Rob
WCT
@40

FD-36

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to

BUREAU (105-34237)

FBI LITTLE ROCK

10-28-55

AIRTEL

DIRECTOR

AIR MAIL

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI;
ROBERT B. PATTERSON
IS - X

ReBu Airtel 10-26-55.

Attempt to re-contact JOHNSON on 10-19-55
unsuccessful. Agents continuing attempt to contact
JOHNSON, and Bureau will be advised of result.

BRYANT

END

AMB/rp
(4)

105-133

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/16/01 BY 60242/MS/KP/LLM

918421

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 14

105-34237-5

AIRTEL

TELETYPE

A. M.

12 OCT 31 1955

A.M.S.D.

SPEC. DEL.

REG. MAIL

REGISTERED

71 NOV 7 1955

Approved: SB

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

Office Memorandum, UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *ahb*

DATE: October 24, 1955

FROM : MR. R. R. ROACH *RR*SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS
COUNCILS OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Bufile 105-~~34217~~

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

On 10-20-55 [redacted] of the Security Division, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), advised Liaison Agent [redacted] that the AEC would appreciate any information on the Citizens Council of Mississippi. He stated this request had come from the AEC Savannah River office.

There is enclosed one copy each of the New Orleans report of 10-7-55 and Memphis report of 5-23-55 in this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Liaison furnish the enclosed reports to [redacted] and that he be advised at that time that these reports do not reflect a full investigation of this organization but only limited inquiry made to determine if this organization comes within the provisions of Executive Order 10450 (Security of Government Employees).

Enclosure

CWB:fjb
(5)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Liaison Section
- 1 - [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/6/00 BY 10267NLSER/LH

918421

RECORDED - 44

EX - 107

NOV 1 1955

NOV 9 1955

105-34237-56

SEP 30

INT SEC

Liaison

ad

28

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman *LB*

DATE: October 5, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont *AB*SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Bufile 105-34237ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/4/01 BY 60340WML/SEP/

918421

Tolson	_____
Boardman	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Harbo	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Sizoo	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

By memorandum May 16, 1955, you were informed of creation of organizations in several Southern states which are opposed to integration of Negroes and whites in public schools.

These organizations have continued to spread unabated and up to present time Bureau has received information concerning 32 such organizations in 14 states.

In view of nationwide interest in segregation and the Supreme Court decisions relative thereto it is considered advisable to furnish information concerning these organizations to the White House and intelligence agencies (G-2, ONI, OSI) in addition to the Attorney General.

RECOMMENDATION:

There ~~are~~ attached letters to Dillon Anderson, Special Assistant to the President, the Attorney General, and G-2, ONI, OSI, concerning the formation of prosegregation organizations. It is recommended that these letters be sent.

Enclosures

cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont
cc - Liaison Section
cc - [redacted]

CFW:gft
(5)

RECORDED-9

10 OCT 12 1955

INT. SEC.

68004 181300

Association of Citizens
Councils of Mississippi

Sent
10-6-55

SE

105-34237-37

105-40562-3

105-40562-3

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Central Research Section

b6
b7C

Assistant Attorney General
William F. Tompkins

November 2, 1955

Director, FBI

ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS COUNCILS
OF MISSISSIPPI
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
FBI File 105-34237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/14/01 BY 60267NLS

X 915421

ZPILSH

There is being furnished you herewith for
your information one Photostat each of the following
documents issued by the captioned organization:

1. Volume I, Number 1, of "The Citizens' Council" for October, 1955.
2. "The Citizens' Council" Annual Report dated August, 1955.

Enclosures (2)

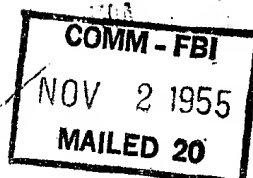
NOTE ON YELLOW:

11/1 Attachment memo Belmont to Boardman dated
10/21/55, in captioned matter, CFW:Bas.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

CFW:hif
(7)

RECORDED - 84



21 NOV 7

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: October 27, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Bufile 105-34237ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/3/82

BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

#90,589

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

By letter October 17, 1955, the Savannah Office advised that Citizens Councils are being formed throughout the State of South Carolina at a rapid rate. Savannah has 30 pending cases at the present time. They note the racial tension seems to be mounting fast in some parts of South Carolina and it is not unlikely that this tension will spread to Georgia. Negro publications in South Carolina have published inflammatory articles concerning these councils and racial segregation. Some of these articles have been written by Modjeska Simkins, a security subject of Savannah Office formerly on Security Index. Some of the items being published by Negro writers are derisive. In one instance an item referred to white men who practiced segregation during the day time and integration at night. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in South Carolina is taking a very aggressive attitude in racial matters at this time. Two extortion investigations have arisen from racial situation. Economic pressures by white people against the Negroes and counter-economic pressures by Negroes are increasing.

The racial tension in South Carolina appears to be more pronounced than in other states in which these organizations are located; however, there is racial tension throughout the South concerning attempts to integrate public schools. Previously Savannah advised 2 Negro organizations formed in opposition to citizens councils. One is sponsored by the NAACP and the other has as an official Modjeska Simkins, previously mentioned. It is not unlikely that similar Negro organizations will be formed in other states to oppose pressure being applied by white/segregation organizations.

pro

Enclosures (2)

cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

RECORDED-61

105-34237-

CFW:amk

(4) amk

NOV 3 1955

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 105-34237-1

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman:

OBSERVATIONS:

Information furnished by Savannah concerning racial tension in South Carolina is being furnished the Department and Department will be kept advised of all information received relative to possible violence in connection with these organizations. All offices conducting investigations concerning citizens councils are being instructed to furnish the Bureau information concerning racial tension in their respective territories and the potential for future violence. These offices will be instructed to keep the Bureau promptly advised of any additional information of this nature received by them. Question was raised in Savannah letter of October 17, 1955, concerning reporting of data re citizens councils in applicant investigations. This matter was handled by separate memorandum dated October 21, 1955.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

If you approve, it is recommended that the attached letter to the Department be sent. It is also recommended that the yellow file copy of the letter to Atlanta, copies to other offices, be approved so that original, which is on duplimat, may be sent.

Letter sent to
field 10/31/55
clw

✓
7
BPH

AS
1/11
clw

Boardman
Belmont

b6
b7C

SAC, Atlanta

October 28, 1955

RECORDED-61

Director, FBI (105-34237)

CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS
INTERNAL SECURITY - X

#90,589
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/3/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mw

Information received at the Bureau relative to citizens councils which have been formed for the purpose of perpetuating segregation indicates racial tension is mounting in connection with this situation. In one state two Negro organizations have been formed for the purpose of combating the activities of the citizens councils. It is not unlikely that similar organizations will be formed in other states.

Each office receiving copies of this letter is instructed to furnish the Bureau no later than November 14, 1955, a succinct summary of the racial situation in the territory covered by that office. This summary should include detailed information regarding incidents which have arisen in connection with the problem of segregation; the names of any organizations formed for the purpose of perpetuating or dissolving segregation; information concerning the potential for violence of groups formed; outside influence being asserted on pro-segregation and anti-segregation organizations, such as by the Communist Party, and any additional information which will give the Bureau a complete picture of the racial situation as it now exists in relation to the segregation question.

Thereafter, the Bureau should be furnished promptly any pertinent information received relative to racial tension in connection with the citizens councils or their opposites.

2cc - Baltimore
2cc - Birmingham
2cc - Charlotte
2cc - Dallas
2cc - Houston
2cc - Kansas City
2cc - Knoxville
2cc - Little Rock

MAILED 20

OCT 31 1955

COMM - FBI

2cc - Memphis
2cc - Miami
2cc - Mobile
2cc - New Orleans
2cc - Norfolk
2cc - Richmond
2cc - Savannah

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____

NOTE ON YELLOW: See page two.

ORIGINAL ON DUPLICATE

CFW:amk

Attachment to memo from Belmont to Boardman dated 10-28-55, re same caption. CFW:amk

Letter to SAC, Atlanta:

When information is received concerning the formation of a Negro organization in opposition to citizens councils, you should advise the Bureau promptly and conduct no investigation or inquiry. Your communication should include information available in your office concerning the formation of the organization, its aims and purposes, the methods used or advocated to achieve its objectives, and data concerning the officials thereof.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Two Negro organizations have been formed in South Carolina. One of these organizations is the subject of inquiries in connection with possible Communist infiltration thereof. Discreet preliminary inquiries are being conducted concerning the other organization to determine its true aims and officials thereof.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: November 1, 1955

Tolson	
Boardman	
Nichols	
Belmont	
Harbo	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Sizoo	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/11/01 BY 60344/mjsSUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND
STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENTS
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Bufile 105-34237

916421 K3P/Km

Baumgardner

As you were advised previously, numerous organizations have been formed throughout Southern States for purpose of perpetuating segregation. We are not investigating these organizations; however, we are following their activities through established reliable sources and are disseminating copies of reports locally to intelligence agencies and at the Bureau to the Department and to G-2, ONI, and OSI.

For the most part these reports contain data obtained through incorporation records, newspaper articles, literature issued by the organization, and other public source material.

At the Bureau copies of initial reports received on each organization are being disseminated by letter and in this letter of transmittal the Department and intelligence agencies are being advised that the report being furnished does not reflect the results of a full investigation but only information obtained through limited inquiries being made to ascertain the influence, if any, in the organization of Ku Klux Klan members or others who advocate repressive tactics against minorities; to determine whether its programs and activities bring it within purview of Executive Order 10450; and to develop data regarding the group's potential for violence.

They are also being advised that in the event an investigation of the organization is initiated as a result of data obtained through inquiries being conducted they will be furnished the results of the investigation and at that time will be informed that an investigation rather than an inquiry is being conducted.

G-2, ONI, and OSI are being advised the information furnished them concerning the organizations is for their confidential use and should not be disseminated outside of their agencies.

Enclosure *11-4-55*cc - Mr. Boardman
cc - Mr. Belmont
cc -

RECORDED-35

EX-118

105-34237-60
13 NOV 7 1955CFW:gft
(4)

68 NOV 8 1955

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman

OBSERVATIONS:

It is believed desirable that we have the field offices preparing reports on these organizations disseminate copies to the local intelligence agencies by letter containing the above statements. This will insure that there is no misunderstanding either at the headquarters or in the field offices of the intelligence agencies as to the scope of the data being furnished them. Otherwise they could infer we are conducting a full investigation of these organizations.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is attached a letter to Atlanta with copies to other offices which are preparing reports on these groups instructing them as above. It is recommended that the yellow file copy of this letter, the original of which is on duplimat, be approved/that the letter may be sent.
so

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman *11-3-55*

DATE: October 31, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont *mab*

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

SUBJECT: CITIZENS COUNCILS AND STATES' RIGHTS MOVEMENT
 INTERNAL SECURITY - X
 Bufile 105-34237

Reports received concerning prosegregation organizations are furnished the Department for consideration under Executive Order 10450. By memorandum October 25, 1955, Department advised that in order to designate one of these groups under that Executive Order it would be necessary to show that the organization adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution. The Department stated that the acts of individual members of these groups might reflect such policy and requested that the Department be furnished information concerning such acts committed by individuals who are members of these groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is attached a letter to Atlanta with carbon copies to other offices which are conducting inquiries relative to prosegregation organizations instructing those offices to furnish the Bureau information requested by the Department. It is recommended that the yellow file copy of this letter, the original of which is on duplimat, be approved so that this letter may be sent.

Enclosure

cc - Mr. Boardman
 Mr. Belmont

[Redacted Box]

77-17

CFW:mab
 (4)

RECORDED - 6

NOV 4 1955

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 4/10/87 BY 10267 HWS

*Letters sent
 filed 11-2-57*

5-0-0-0

4/1/57
4/1/57
4/1/57

November 1, 1955

RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-26-2001 BY 60322 JML/STW

Kelly

In accordance with the above request of the Department, each office receiving copies of this letter is instructed to promptly furnish the Bureau any pertinent information received relative to acts of force or violence to deny others their rights under the Constitution which are committed by individuals who are members of or connected with any of these pro-segregation organizations.

207 - Louisville
Memphis
Miami
Mobile
New Orleans
Norfolk
Pittsburgh
Richmond
St. Louis
Savannah

MAILED 6
NOV 2 1955
COMM - FBI

NOV 9

Bo
Austria

W



8/3/26

061A

Letter to SAC, Atlanta:

112352

If acts of force or violence committed by individuals can be connected with orders or programs of these organizations those acts should be included in reports submitted on the organizations. Otherwise information concerning the acts of force or violence should be submitted to the Bureau by letter under the caption of the organization with which the individual who committed the act is affiliated.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 2
Page 161 ~ Referral/Direct
Page 176 ~ Referral/Direct